YOUTH's

Instructive and Entertaining

STORY-TELLER:

BEING

A CHOICE COLLECTION

OF

MORAL TALES,

Chiefly deduced from real Life, calculated to inforce the Practice of Virtue, and expand every social Idea in the human Heart. Adorned with emblematical Cuts, from the most interesting part of each Tale, and methodized after the Plan recommended by the late ingenious Dr GOLDSMITH.

To which is added, by Way of Preface,

THOUGHTS

ON THE

Present MODE of EDUCATION.

The SECOND EDITION.

Eye Nature's Walks, shoot Folly as it flies,
And catch the Manners living as they rise.
POPE.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:
Printed by and for T. SAINT, 1775.

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THOUGHTS

THOUGHTS *on* EDUCATION.

WHen we conſider the human mind in its infant and untutored ſtate, we may juſtly wonder how it could be trained to the exerciſe of ſocial principles; its innate love of liberty always impelling it to throw off the reſtraints of education, even when ſubjected to the moſt ſalutary laws of civil government. To prepare the mind for ſociety, it muſt be modelled on a plan directly tending to a ſteady ſupport of thoſe laws by which it is governed.

Here the work of education begins, upon which we muſt erect our fabric. The natural ideas of the infant muſt be conducted in a proper channel, or he will ſoon be loſt in the ſeas of ungoverned paſſions, and ſubjected to all their concomitant evils; every aſſiſtance, therefore, to acquire the firſt principles of a proper education, by which the happineſs of the man may be ſecured, ought carefully to be attended to; and as this can only be by the proper and early regulation of the paſſions, there cannot be too ſtrict an attention paid, in every ſtage of youth, to this important point, that the man may not be deſtroyed ere his manhood begins.

Common obſervation ſhews us, that childhood itſelf is ever ready to copy the example of thoſe around it. As this indicates ſomething like the firſt dawn of reaſon, education ſhould come into its aid, and the pupil gradually trained to virtuous impreſſions. So much depends upon the performance of this, that the longer it is delayed beyond the early period of life, the more difficult the taſk will prove in his progreſſive years. Improper habits will ſpring up in the mind; and the conſequences will at laſt be, a ſevere and painful conflict to drive them out. Ought we not then carefully to attend to every different paſſion as it ſhoots up in the infant breaſt? to confirm and cheriſh every act of

benevolence, *love* and *good-will*; to encourage, as much as poſſible, the *ſocial affections*; to diſplay the obligations of youth to ſociety; to ſtimulate them to make every creature happy as far as their ſphere of action will admit; to inform them, that they ought not to live for themſelves, but for the *good* of the public; and that every offence, againſt theſe principles, is an affront, not only to their *maker*, whom they ought to reverence and obey, but deſtructive of their own happineſs, and that of their fellow creatures; the protection of both being the grand object of their exiſtence.

That *theſe ſentiments* have their *oppoſites* in the *human heart* is a melancholly truth; and if we would prevent their deſtructive influence, the ſuppreſſion of them at their earlieſt dawn, ought carefully to be attended to; becauſe from their malignant nature, their conſequences are of the moſt pernicious tendency, being deſtructive not only of the intereſts of ſociety, but ſubverſive of our temporal and eternal welfare. Can any thing be ſo blaſting to the ſeeds of benevolence, juſt beginning to expand themſelves in the juvenile heart (and of conſequence to every virtue) as *Cruelty*, *Envy*, and *Revenge*. Theſe too naturally ſhoot up in the breaſt of almoſt every child, and much ſooner than is generally imagined; for we may often, at a very early age, obſerve him envious of the notice taken of other children, when ſeemingly he appears to be neglected; and at other times be ſuddenly actuated by *revenge*, even to give a blow upon the ſlighteſt neglect or any other trifling provocation; and, what is worſe, parents themſelves, from a miſguided indulgence, often rivet theſe, and other deteſtable principles in the heart, ſo that they never can afterwards be thoroughly extirpated: whilſt the *Nurſe*, as a faithful Copier of the pernicious example, implicitly obeys the dictates of her unthinking miſtreſs,—whoſe fatal *fiat*, whilſt it gratifies the paſſions, poiſons the mind: We ſhall ſuppoſe, for inſtance, a child has a ſtrong deſire for any thing, how-

ever

ever noxious, his requeſt muſt be granted, by which his notions of ſelf-importance are at once confirmed: he ſoon feels his own power, and becomes the petty tyrant of the family; and being indulged in this exalted idea of prerogative, is unable to brook diſappointment or contradiction, and hence becomes the ſcorn and ridicule of mankind.

Further, a child is frequently ſtimulated to acts of cruelty, by ſeeing others tormenting dogs, cats, &c. he in his turn delights to torture flies, and other inſects within his reach, and by a gradual progreſſion from one act of violence to another, he at laſt becomes deaf to the melting accents of gentle pity, and ſoft compaſſion;—to every feeling that dignifies and adorns humanity, and lifts the man above the brute. This conduct, ſo fatal in its tendency, admits of no excuſe; and care ſhould be taken to nip it in the bud, by inculcating that great moral duty of *doing to others, as we, under the like circumſtances, would have them do to us*: when perpetrating acts of cruelty upon animals, inſects or reptiles, he ſhould be aſked how he would like to be ſo tormented himſelf? And be made ſenſible, that where no neceſſity warrants the act, to deprive any animal of life, is a manifeſt affront to *him* who ſpake it into exiſtence; for they with man plead equal right to breath the vital air, that the end of their creation, whatever it be, may be fully anſwered; and though ſeemingly of no value, yet were never made merely for the exerciſes of thoſe wanton cruelties, we daily ſee them ſubjected to.

Having explained the neceſſity and advantages of diverting the paſſions into their proper channels, at a time when a child diſcovers the firſt dawn of reaſon and underſtanding, I ſhall next, without dwelling upon their different effects, conſider *him* in that ſtate of life, when all the various powers of his mind are opened, and he is become ſenſible of the different impreſſions attached to human nature.

In this ſtate, when the blood revels and wantons in the veins, all the tender care, anxious ſolicitude, and kind admo-

admonitions of a fond parent, are too little to keep the unthinking youth within the bounds of decency and regularity. Company, pleaſure, and the *bon ton* of the times, hurry him head-long to ſcenes of riot and confuſion; and theſe not being timely removed, by begeting in him an early abhorrence of theſe deſtructive procedures, but rather encouraged, by adminiſtering to his puerile vices, and kept in countenance by his equals, where is the wonder, if we often ſee the heir of an illuſtrious family, bemired in all the impurities of criminal paſſions, and the aged father languiſhing under a painful ſenſe of his ſon's unwarrantable follies, and the ſon deſtitute of all manner of feeling for his too indulgent parents?

The love of pleaſure is a paſſion inherent in the human heart, and hard to be controlled; therefore I cannot but view the preſent mode of introducing youth, ere infancy terminates, into public aſſemblies, as riveting a love of pleaſure too deep in their hearts; becauſe, at this period of life, it is impoſſible that *principle* ſhould be ſo very ſteadily formed, as to be a ſufficient barrier againſt the attacks of faſhionable pleaſures, which often ſtrike the minds of the unthinking ſo forcibly, as to overpower every other conſideration; and then nothing but the joys of ſenſe are thought of, till the appetite, by purſuing too eagerly its favourite object, is palled: diſappointment then preys upon the ſpirits, and all things loſe their reliſh; yet, ever on the wing, and ready to ſwallow every bait that has the leaſt appearance of anſwering his wiſhed-for enjoyment, the man of pleaſure becomes a torment to himſelf; being deſtitute of *that knowledge*, which alone is capable of pointing out his real intereſt, he finds his favourite extravagancies end in diſappointment, and at length becomes diſſatisfied with the world itſelf.

A ſtate of diſſipation being erected on the ruins of annihilated reaſon, it is proper for us, having pointed out a few of its primary cauſes, to enquire into ſome errors of education concurring to advance its progreſs. And here it does not ſeem foreign to our purpoſe to conſider the preſent ſtate of our modern novel publi-

cations,

cations, ſo far as they influence the minds and manners of the youth of both ſexes.

That the mind is like wax, ductile, and capable of any impreſſion which is given it, is a fact no one will doubt; but, yet more ſuſceptible of evil than of good impreſſions I would hence infer the duty of a parent to be particularly attentive to what books are ſubmitted to his child's peruſal; a neglect of this neceſſary caution, may open a ſluice of immorality, that will deluge every good and virtuous principle implanted in the heart, at an early period. Books replete with ſenſe and ſound morality, place virtue in the moſt amiable point of view, and amend the heart while they inform the underſtanding; and whatever book has the leaſt tendency towards inculcating other principles than thoſe which are a dignity to human nature, ſhould be entirely ſuppreſt. Modern novels are the primary ſource of many evils, deſtructive of the health and morals of the younger part of both ſexes; they are generally addreſſed to the paſſions, which creates them many readers, and being ſpecious in appearance, but deſtructive in their effects, as breathing looſe principles, inſpire them with ideas, repugnant to reaſon and the dictates of virtue. It is aſtoniſhing, that a man of genius ſhould ſpread the flowers of eloquence o'er ſpotted vice, and in harmonious periods conſecrate the foulеſt enormities, laughing virtue out of countenance, and decking vice in all the trappings of a ſplendid harlot, for a little of *that* which may indeed afford him the temporary gratifications of ſenſe, but can never yield him any ſolid ſatisfaction.

Till *principle* is firmly rooted in the heart, the minds of youth ought to undergo a regular training, and each new taſk ſhould be rendered more pleaſant and delightful: to effect which, ſuch books ought to be peruſed as may attract their notice, engage their attention, and ſhew, in various ſhapes, the peculiar advantages of the *man* who ſteadily perſeveres in the path of *virtue*, over one who is ſunk into the pit of debauchery; the particular attention of providence to his

cauſe,

cauſe, which never fails to look upon his honeſt endeavours with a benign eye, and to crown his labours with the pleaſing proſpect of a happy eternity, excluſive of the ſecret pleaſure, and inward ſatisfaction ariſing from every benevolent act. Thus, being made ſenſible of the amiableneſs of virtue, he will anticipate its future bliſs, and his actions reſulting from a thorough conviction of equitable intentions, he will have that inexpreſſible happineſs, which accompanies a heart devoted to *religion*, and a ſtrict attention to the duties of ſociety,—a ſelf-approving conſcience.

On the other hand, the deformity of vice ought to be painted in the ſtrongeſt colours, ſo as to ſteel the mind againſt its allurements, and effectually ſecure it from the dreadful conſequences naturally ariſing from it.

Now nothing ſeems more likely to anſwer theſe ſalutary purpoſes, than a relation of facts, drawn from the general conduct of human life; to effect which, the following Stories are offered to the public: ſhould they, in any reſpect, anſwer the end propoſed in collecting them, viz. *The Confirming of Youth in every virtuous Principle*, the Editor will think himſelf ſufficiently rewarded; if not, he can only ſay, *his labours were intentionally dedicated to their improvement.* But he is not without ſome hopes, that his deſign will be anſwered, as publications of this ſort cannot fail to inſpire the minds of youth with ideas replete with every ſocial and moral virtue, and teach them to put a juſt value upon the dignity of their nature; without which, permanent happineſs can never be obtained Books embelliſhed with ſcenes of indelicate amours, lewd fictions, and faſhionable intrigues, can never learn them this; they may render them the mere ſport of every guſt of paſſion, but 'tis to publications of a quite different nature, that the folly of every inconſiſtent act muſt be made apparent, and virtuous principles inculcated; principles, that, if timely inſtilled, will not only render the poſſeſſor an ornament to ſociety, but, if our affections contracted *here*, reach

reach *beyond* the grave, *there* he ſhall in raptures feel the bleſſed Reward of his labours crowned with an eternal ſpring of joy, iſſuing from uncontaminated fountains of living waters

Admiting a temporary deviation from the path of virtue, it can be but for a moment; that monitor, that faithful monitor, implanted in his breaſt, with the aſſiſtance of education, will ſtrike conviction to his heart, recall his wandering inclinations, and convince him of his error; hence his very receſſion muſt, in the end, be a great means of ſecuring his future happineſs, by forcing a redoubled attention to guard againſt the flattering ſhews of *outward* objects, as well as any ſudden impulſes to vice from *within*.

In ſhort, what the *Editor* has attempted is a plan chalked out by the late Dr Goldſmith, where he inveighs bitterly againſt the preſent collections that are moſt commonly put into the hands of Youth, whoſe dramatis perſonæ are generally of ghoſts, goblins, fairies, or ſomething of the ſupernatural kind—the vagaries of old women; and declares, that for his part, he would much rather recommend the hiſtory of Whittington, could his cat be only ſevered from the tale, as it might ſerve to inform young people, that a man riſes in proportion to his induſtry and virtue. So in the following Stories every principle tending to the leaſt *depravity* of manners is totally excluded, and *virtue* contraſted with *vice*, in ſuch a manner, as to ſhew the former in its moſt amiable colours, and create a juſt deteſtation of the latter.

How far the Editor has ſucceeded in his attempt, is left for the impartial public to determine, who, he hopes, will be tender in cenſuring a performance, undertaken ſolely with a view of initiating Youth in the *true Principles* of MORALITY and VIRTUE.

THE EDITOR.

THE

YOUTH's

Inſtructive and Entertaining

STORY-TELLER.

A MERCHANT *and his two* SONS.

A Certain Merchant had two ſons, the eldeſt of whom was of ſo bad a diſpoſition, as to behave with great hatred and ſpitefulneſs towards the younger, who was of a temper more mild and gentle. It happened that the old gentleman having, by his trade, acquired a large eſtate, left it by his will to his eldeſt ſon, together with all his ſhips and ſtock in merchandiſe, deſiring him

A to

BODLEY CAMB. ACAD.

to continue in the buſineſs, and ſupport his brother. The father was no ſooner dead than the elder brother began plainly to ſhew his ill-will to his younger brother, thruſt him out of his houſe, and without giving him any thing for his ſupport, turned him looſe into the wide world. The young man was much dejected with this uſage, but conſidering that in his father's life-time he had acquired ſome knowledge in buſineſs, he applied himſelf to a neighbouring merchant, offering to ſerve him in the way of trade. The merchant received him into his houſe, and finding, from long experience, that he was prudent, virtuous, and diligent in his buſineſs, gave him his daughter and only child in marriage, and when he died, bequeathed to him his whole fortune. The young man, after the death of his father-in-law, retired with his wife into a diſtant country, where he purchaſed a fine eſtate, with a ſplendid dwelling; and there he lived with great credit and reputation.

The elder brother had, after the death of their father, carried on the trade, and for ſome time met with great ſucceſs in it: but at length a violent ſtorm ariſing, tore to pieces many of his ſhips, which were coming home richly laden; and, about the ſame time, ſome perſons failing, who had much of his money in their hands, he was reduced to great want; and, to complete his misfortunes, the little which he had left at home was conſumed by a ſudden fire, which burnt his houſe, and

every

every thing in it; ſo that he was brought quite into a ſtate of beggary. In this forlorn condition, he had no other reſource to keep him from ſtarving, than to wander up and down the country, imploring the aſſiſtance of well-diſpoſed perſons. It happened one day, that, having travelled many miles, and obtained but little relief, he eſpied a gentleman walking in the fields, not far from a fine ſeat: to this gentleman he addreſſed himſelf, and having laid before him his misfortunes, and his preſent neceſſitous condition, he earneſtly intreated him to grant him ſome aſſiſtance. The gentleman, who happened to be none other than his brother, did not at firſt know him, but after ſome diſcourſe with him, he perceived who he was. However, concealing his knowledge of him, he brought him home, and ordered his ſervants to take care of him, and furniſh him for that night with lodging and victuals. In the mean time he reſolved to diſcover himſelf to his brother next morning, and offer him a conſtant habitation in his houſe, after he had got the conſent of his wife to the propoſal. Accordingly, next morning, he ordered the poor man to be ſent for. When he was come into his preſence, he aſked if he knew him. The poor man anſwered, he did not. I am, ſays he, burſting into tears, your only brother, and immediately fell on his neck, and embraced him with great tenderneſs. The elder brother, quite aſtoniſhed at this accident, fell to the ground, and began

to make many excuſes, and to beg pardon for his former cruel behaviour. To whom the other anſwered, brother, let us forget thoſe things; I heartily forgive you all that is paſt; you need not range up and down the world; you ſhall be welcome to live with me. He readily accepted the propoſal, and they lived together with great comfort and happineſs till death.

The STORY *of* JOHNSON *and* SMITH.

JOhnſon and Smith were two young perſons educated in the ſame houſe, and brought up to the ſame buſineſs under the ſame maſter; but with this difference, that Johnſon was the ſon, the other the ſervant, and the former had a conſiderable independent fortune, the latter no eſtate, but honeſt induſtry. About

About three years ſince, the parent and the maſter dying, the young traders were left to themſelves: Smith declined an offer of partnerſhip with his young maſter, merely becauſe it was more than he could in reaſon or honeſty expect, and Johnſon generouſly advanced him a ſum of money to engage in trade for himſelf.

Smith, who knew he traded at preſent but with another's ſtock, and had only induſtry and frugality for the means to repay the loan, and ſettle himſelf in eaſe and happineſs, became the moſt diligent trader and arranteſt ſlave to a ſhop that ever kept one. No debaucheries over night kept him in bed the next morning, and his doors were open two hours before, and at leaſt an hour after his neighbours: Smith lived in his ſhop, and knew no idle moment there; his conſtant attendance brought him conſtant buſineſs; his obliging behaviour and the probity of his dealing made every cuſtomer a friend to him, and whoever once bought of him, never afterwards bought any where elſe.

The firſt year's balance gave him power to pay his generous benefactor, with great thanks, and before another was elapſed, he was become the favourite of every worthy perſon in the neighbourhood; and the ſobriety of his life recommended him ſo far with the clergyman of the place, (one of the worthieſt of his worthy function) that he found no objection in the way of his addreſſes to this gentleman's

only daughter; ſhe had no great fortune, nor could our young trader expect much; the good will of her father was a ſufficient portion. His good opinion of his ſon-in-law was ſo great, that he readily agreed to all he gave his daughter being laid down into trade, and that gave the young man a larger ſtock than he could otherwiſe have commanded; while the good will of every man in the pariſh to the father made him take a pleaſure in obliging the ſon, at the ſame time they encouraged a young man who deſerved it; and he, by this means, got as great an addition of cuſtom, as that of his ſtock, and became the moſt flouriſhing young trader in the place.

This better fortune made no alteration in his temper; he naturally indeed entered on a ſomewhat more expenſive way of living on his having a wife; but ſhe was as frugal and prudent as himſelf, and they ſoon calculated a certain ſtandard of expence, ſomething within what their preſent profits would afford, and determined to ſave a little from that, till their increaſe of trade ſhould enable them, in the ſucceeding years, to ſpend more without being more extravagant. It is eaſy to conceive that ſuch a family muſt ſave money yearly; and, in ſhort, the end of a ſecond year ſaw them worth more than from ſo ſmall beginnings one could eaſily expect.

While this was the life of Smith, his young maſter, whoſe eaſy fortune ſet him above the neceſſity of induſtry, was carrying on the ſame trade

trade in a very different manner; he had eaſily determined himſelf to follow trade, indeed, as an amuſement for his leiſure hours, but, ſince he did not want it, deſigned never to be very ſolicitous about it, but to do juſt what he liked of it, and no more. He took an experienced good ſervant, as a ſubſtantial trader who recommended him aſſured him, and gave him good pay to take the trouble, while he had no ſhare in any part of the buſineſs, but in the profits of it.

It is the moſt dangerous of all errors, though too common a one, for a man to imagine he can play with buſineſs, and do what he pleaſes, when his affairs are eaſy without it. There is no middle ſtate in the trading world; induſtry will bring riches, idleneſs beggary; nor is there any medium between theſe: the man who does not think it worth his while to be a ſlave to buſineſs, becauſe he can do without it, will, in the end, find the deception; the ſhop that is kept will keep its maſter, but that which is neglected will at any time ruin even him that does not want it; and too often an experienced ſervant is to ſuch a man the worſt ſervant in the world.

JOHNSON, however, did not abſolutely neglect his affairs of this kind; he appeared every morning in his ſhop; at noon, indeed, he dined at the tavern, and ſpent the evening as a man of fortune ought. Every young trader has the unhappy imagination, that going into company is the way to get into buſineſs, and that

that the neighbourly clubs in moſt ſtreets are half the ſupport of the people who are members of them. It is one of the moſt miſchievous errors in the world to fancy this, and I am afraid is an error that has been fatal to half the young fellows in trade. They do not conſider that the maſter of the houſe is the only man whoſe purſe is the heavier for theſe meetings, and that the people who frequent them are uſually idle and indigent perſons; ſuch as a ſober trader ought to avoid having any dealings with, not court their cuſtom.

Johnſon, however, was above all theſe ſects of people; the company he kept were men of fortune; the young fellows of taſte and ſpirit of the age; he frequented every club of ſuch, and ſoon got their general cuſtom.

The dreſs neceſſary to appear in among ſuch people was ſo different from the ſober habit of the city, that this alone, which made him the adoration of the neighbouring apprentices, and perhaps laid the firſt ſteps to the ruin of one-half of them, in their ambition to follow him in his faſhions, got him ſo univerſally the diſtate and ill will of the ſober part of the neighbourhood, that he ſoon had no other cuſtom than that acquaintance.

All this while an elegant manner of living, and neceſſary ſupplies for the ſhop, called for a deal of money: Johnſon's fortune was all in caſh; he readily drew on his banker as often as he wanted; he contented himſelf with knowing that he lived very little above the income

income of his fortune alone, and as to what trade called for, he imagined he knew that muſt be returned with intereſt. It was no matter to him that no money came, neither did he know, indeed, except at the year's end, whether any came or not; he knew it was all one to him whether he was paid to-day or this day twelve-month, and was fully perſuaded of that too common and deſtructive error, that long credit gives a man reputation; and that a tradeſman ſhould never call in his money ſo long as it is ſafe, becauſe it ſtops his cuſtomers from buying.

Johnſon had indeed all the falſe notions of the generality of our young traders, but not one more; and that too many in this city are ruined daily by the ſame, though they are ſtill propagated among numbers as the ſecrets of trading, and held for truth as certain as the goſpel. Johnſon's affairs began now to run dreadfully behind hand, without his knowing it: but that which to others is a laſt relief, when they find themſelves juſt gone, was now the ſcheme of our young gentleman trader, without his knowing it. A young lady, who accidentally came into his ſhop, in the morning hours, one day while he was in it, took away both what ſhe bought, and her tradeſman's heart into the bargain. In ſhort, Johnſon watched her home; he was prudent enough, before he made any further ſtep, to inform himſelf who ſhe was; and found ſhe was a

perſon

perſon of a good family, and worth ſeven thouſand pounds.

Johnſon was a man of a polite and engaging behaviour; he ſoon found means of introducing himſelf into the family; and as he imagined himſelf more than an equal match for her, he made it his firſt ſtep to ſettle matters with her father. The old gentleman had no right liking to this ſort of gentleman-trading that Johnſon carried on, but his private fortune made him unexceptionable in reſpect of money, and he ſoon convinced the old gentleman of the advantages of his way of carrying on buſineſs. He found leſs difficulty to get the lady's conſent than her father's, and all was harmony and good underſtanding between them; the lover gallanted his lady and all the family to all the public places of diverſion, and the eternal affability and good humour about him, made the old people, in ſhort, as much in love with him almoſt as the lady.

Courtſhip is ſure to be the ruin or the happy ſettling of every young tradeſman who engages in it; if the choice be imprudent, it is ruin whether it ſucceeds or not; and even where it is irreproachable, the time loſt about it, and the neglect of buſineſs it occaſions, are not eaſily made up to a young man. All points, however, were ſo well agreed about our affair, that Johnſon found it no difficulty to get the day of marriage fixed: the bride made her preparations, and Johnſon's taylor had

had his orders not to fail. When things were in this ſtate, the lady's fortune was inquired more earneſtly into on Johnſon's part, and his on her father's. No miſtake appeared about her's, but alas! the looking into his affairs on this occaſion was the firſt notice of the bride-groom's ruin. It is true, his books were full of long debts, and the current account of caſh in trade was ſomething conſiderable; but his fortune was in a manner all drawn out of his banker's hand, and though he had much more owing to him than by him, yet his debts to his creditors were not ſmall.

'Tis eaſy to imagine, the prudent father now refuſed his daughter: the diſtreſs on her part, as well as Johnſon's, was very ſincere and affecting, that they muſt part; while they did it with the ſincereſt agonies on both ſides, nor could the entreaty of the old people prevent the young lady from engaging herſelf, by the moſt ſolemn vow, never to marry any other perſon. Johnſon now went to new-model his affairs, to take his money and call in his debts, but alas! his ſervant went off in the night with his ready money, and his debtors were one-half dead, and the other half in gaol or in Flanders. It was not ſo, however, with his creditors: the breaking off the match ſet them upon enquiries, and the ill-natured world ſoon whiſpered the occaſion. 'Tis eaſy to know what muſt be the event of this; all fell upon him at once, and his goods and perſon were ſeized upon. What now remained there-

fore

fore for the unhappy Johnſon to do? He bethought himſelf of the friend he had been once generous to: he called in what was remaining of his fortune, ſent for Smith, delivered all into his hands, and begged of him to endeavour to bring his creditors to ſome compoſition. The generous Smith engaged himſelf immediately for the whole, took home his friend, called in his debts, paid the remainder out of his own fortune, and told him, my dear Johnſon, there was a time when your generoſity offered me a partnerſhip in what I had no right to; my trade is now as good as yours was then; but there is this great difference, that though you owed nothing to me, I cannot but remember I owe every thing to you; and let my gratitude now offer what your generoſity then did, a ſhare of all you have enabled me to procure.

It was not without much difficulty that the unhappy Johnſon accepted this offer; he now, however, ſaw through all his former folly, and became as diligent as his friend had been. The neighbourhood adored the generoſity and gratitude of young Smith, and even his wife and father applauded it. Every thing had been ſome time perfectly happy here, and Johnſon knew no misfortune but the loſs of his bride, whom he indeed doated on with uncommon affection; and now, though he had no hopes of gaining her fortune, as ſuddenly as ſhe robbed him of her, reſtored her to him again; a relation of his dying at this time, left him a fortune

fortune twice as great as that he had at firſt. His love, his gratitude, and generoſity now ſhewed themſelves in the moſt amiable colours; he married the lady, laid his whole fortune into wholeſale trade, and took Smith in to be an equal ſharer in the profits: and the neighbourhood now ſee them the moſt flouriſhing traders in it, and a glorious example to every one about them.

INGRATITUDE *juſtly rewarded: A Story.*

A Man mounted upon a camel, once rode into a thicket, and went to reſt himſelf in that part of it, from whence a caravan was juſt departed, and where the people having left a fire, ſome ſparks of it being driven by the wind, had ſet a buſh, wherein lay an adder, all in a flame. The fire environed the

adder in ſuch a manner, that he knew not how to eſcape, and was juſt giving himſelf over to deſtruction, when he perceived the man already mentioned, and with a thouſand mournful conjurations, begged of him to ſave his life. The man, on this, being naturally compaſſionate, ſaid to himſelf, It is true, theſe creatures are enemies to mankind; however, good actions are of great value, even of the very greateſt when done to our enemies, and whoever ſows the ſeed of good works, ſhall reap the fruit of bleſſings. After he had made this reflection, he took a ſack, and tying it to the end of his lance, reached it over the flame to the adder, who flung himſelf into it; and when he was ſafe in, the traveller pulled back the bag, and gave the adder leave to come forth, telling him he might go about his buſineſs, but hoped he would have the gratitude to make him a promiſe, never to do any more harm to men, ſince a man had done him ſo great a piece of ſervice. To this the ungrateful creature anſwered, You much miſtake both yourſelf and me; think not that I intend to be gone ſo calmly; no, my deſign is firſt to leave thee a parting bleſſing, and throw my venom upon thee and thy camel. Monſter of ingratitude, replied the traveller, deſiſt a moment at leaſt, and tell me whether it be lawful to recompenſe good with evil? No, replied the adder, it certainly is not, but in acting in that manner, I ſhall do no more than what yourſelves do every day; that is to ſay,

retaliate

retaliate good deeds with wicked actions, and requite benefits with ingratitude. You cannot prove this ſlanderous and wicked aſperſion, replied the traveller; nay, I will venture to ſay, that if you can ſhew me any one other creature in the world, that is of your opinion, I will conſent to whatever puniſhment you think fit to inflict on me for the faults of my fellow-creatures. I agree to this willingly, anſwered the adder; and at the ſame time ſpying a cow, let us propound our queſtion, ſaid he, to this creature before us, and we ſhall ſee what anſwer ſhe will make. The man conſented, and ſo both of them accoſting the cow, the adder put the queſtion to her, how a good turn was to be requited? By its contrary, replied the cow, if you mean according to the cuſtom of men; and this I know by ſad experience. I belong, ſaid ſhe, to a man, to whom I have long been ſeveral ways extremely beneficial: I have been uſed to bring him a calf every year, and to ſupply his houſe with milk, butter, and cheeſe; but now I am grown old, and no longer in a condition to ſerve him as formerly I did; he has put me in this paſture to fat me, with a deſign to ſell me to a butcher, who is to cut my throat, and he and his friends are to eat my fleſh: And is not this requiting good with evil? On this the adder taking upon him to ſpeak, ſaid to the man, What ſay you now, are not your own cuſtoms a ſufficient warrant for me to treat you as I intend to do? The

traveller, not a little confounded at this ill-timed ſtory, was cunning enough, however, to anſwer, This is a particular caſe only, and give me leave to ſay, one witneſs is not ſufficient to convict me; therefore pray let me have another. With all my heart, replied the adder; let us addreſs ourſelves to this tree that ſtands here before us. The tree having heard the ſubject of their diſpute, gave his opinion in the following words: Among men benefits are never requited but with ungrateful actions. I protect travellers from the heat of the ſun, and yield them fruit to eat, and a delightful liquor to drink; nevertheleſs, forgetting the delight and benefit of my ſhade, they barbarouſly cut down my branches to make ſticks and handles for hatchets, and ſaw my body to make planks and rafters. Is not this requiting good with evil? The adder, on this, looking upon the traveller, aſked if he was ſatisfied? But he was in ſuch a confuſion that he knew not what to anſwer. However, in hopes to free himſelf from the danger that threatened him, ſaid to the adder, I deſire only one favour more; let us be judged by the next beaſt we meet; give me but that ſatisfaction, it is all I crave; you know life is ſweet; ſuffer me therefore to beg for the means of continuing it. While they were thus parleying together, a fox paſſing by, was ſtopped by the adder, who conjured him to put an end to their controverſy. The fox, upon this, deſiring to know the ſubject of their diſpute;

diſpute; the traveller ſaid, I have done this adder a ſignal piece of ſervice, and he would fain perſuade me that, for my reward, he ought to do me a miſchief. If he means to act by you as you men do by others, he ſpeaks nothing but what is true, replied the fox; but, that I may be better able to judge between you, let me underſtand what ſervice it is that you have done him? The traveller was very glad of this opportunity of ſpeaking for himſelf, and recounted the whole affair to him; he told him after what manner he had reſcued him out of the flames, with that little ſack which he ſhewed him. How! ſaid the fox, laughing out-right, would you pretend to make me believe that ſo large an adder as this could get into ſuch a little ſack? 'tis impoſſible. Both the man and the adder, on this, aſſured him of the truth of that part of the ſtory; but the fox poſitively refuſed to believe it. At length, ſaid he, words will never convince me of this monſtrous improbability; but if the adder will go into it again, to convince me of the truth of what you ſay, I ſhall then be able to judge of the reſt of this affair. That I will do moſt willingly, replied the adder; and, at the ſame time, put himſelf into the ſack. Then, ſaid the fox to the traveller, now you are the maſter of your enemy's life, and, I believe, you need not be long in reſolving what treatment ſuch a monſter of ingratitude deſerves of you. With that the traveller tied up the mouth of the ſack,

and, with a great ſtone, never left off beating it till he had pounded the adder to death; and, by that means, put an end to his fears, and the diſpute, at once.

The BASKET-MAKER.

A Deſcendant of one of the great men of the happy iſland of Solomon becoming a gentleman, to ſo improved a degree, as to deſpiſe the good qualities which had originally ennobled his family, thought of nothing, but how to ſupport and diſtinguiſh his dignity, by the pride of an arrogant mind, and a diſpoſition abandoned to pleaſure.

He had a houſe near the ſea, where he ſpent great part of his time in hunting and fiſhing; but found himſelf unhappily at a loſs, in purſuit of theſe important diverſions, by means of a long ſlip of marſhy land, over-grown with

with high reeds, that lay between his houſe and the ſea, into which if the beaſts could eſcape when he hunted, it became difficult to recover them; and, through which it being impracticable to paſs, he was obliged to go half a mile round when he was bent upon fiſhing.

Reſolving, at length, that it became not a man of his quality to ſubmit to reſtraint in his pleaſures, for the conveniency of an obſtinate mechanic; and, having endeavoured in vain to buy out the owner, who was an honeſt poor baſket-maker, and whoſe livelihood depended on his art in working up the flags of thoſe reeds; the gentleman took advantage of a very high wind, and commanded his ſervant to burn down the barrier.

The baſket-maker, on his blunt complaint, receiving the additional injuſtice of blows and reproaches, went and threw himſelf at the feet of the king, and procured a citation for his oppreſſor's appearance, who confeſſing the charge, proceeded to juſtify his behaviour, by the poor man's unmindfulneſs of the ſubmiſſion, due from the vulgar, to gentlemen of rank and diſtinction.

But, pray, replied the king, what diſtinction of rank had the grandfather of your father, when, being a clearer of wood, in the palace of my anceſtors, he was raiſed from among thoſe vulgar you ſpeak of with ſuch contempt, in reward of an inſtance he gave of his courage and loyalty in defence of his maſter?

ſter? yet his diſtinction was nobler than yours. I am ſorry I have a gentleman in my kingdom baſe enough to be ignorant that eaſe and diſtinction of fortune were beſtowed on him but to this end, that, being at reſt from all cares of providing for himſelf, he might apply his heart, head, and hand, for the public advantage of others.

The haughty offender muttering out a diſlike of the encouragement this way of thinking muſt give to the commonalty, the king ordered a captain of his gallies to ſtrip the injured and the injurer, and convey them to one of the moſt barbarous iſlands, and leave them both to their fortune.

The place in which they were landed was a marſh, under the cover of whoſe flags the gentleman was in hopes to conceal himſelf, and give the ſlip to a companion, whom he thought it a diſgrace to be found with; but the lights in the galley having given an alarm to the ſavages, a conſiderable body of them came down, and diſcovered in the morning two ſtrangers.

Setting up a diſmal yell, they ſurrounded them; and advancing, ſeemed determined to diſpatch them with their clubs. Here the gentleman began to diſcover, that the ſuperiority of his blood was imaginary; for between a conſciouſneſs of ſhame and cold, under the nakedneſs he had never been uſed to, a fear of the event, from the fierceneſs of the ſavages' approach, and the want of an idea whereby

whereby to ſoften their aſperity, he fell behind the poor ſharer of his calamity; and with an unmanly ſneakingneſs of mien gave up the poſt of honour, and made a leader of the very man whom he thought it a diſgrace to conſider as a companion.

The baſket-maker, on the contrary, to whom poverty had made nakedneſs habitual, to whom a life of pain repreſented death as not dreadful, and whoſe remembrance of his ſkill, of which theſe ſavages were ignorant, gave him hopes of becoming ſafe; having plucked a handful of flags, ſat down without emotion; and making ſigns that he would ſhew them ſomething worthy their attention, fell to work with ſmiles and noddings, while the ſavages drew near, and gazed in expectation of the conſequence.

It was not long before he had wreathed a pretty coronet; and, riſing with reſpect and fearfulneſs, approached the chief, and placed it gently on his head; whoſe figure under this new ornament ſo charmed his followers, that they threw down all their clubs, and formed a dance of welcome and congratulation round the author of ſo prized a favour; each ſhewing an impatience to be made as fine as his captain: ſo the baſket-maker had his hands full of employment. But the ſavages obſerving one quite idle, while the other was ſo buſy in their ſervice, took up arms in the behalf of natural juſtice, and began to *lay on* arguments in favour of their purpoſe.

The

The baſket-maker's pity now effaced the remembrance of his ſufferings; ſo he roſe and reſcued his oppreſſor; making ſigns that he was ignorant of the art, but might, if they thought fit, be uſefully employed in waiting on the work, and fetching flags for his ſupply as faſt as he ſhould want them.

This propoſition luckily fell in with a deſire the ſavages expreſſed to keep themſelves at leiſure, that they might crowd round, and mark the progreſs of a work they took ſuch pleaſure in. They left the gentleman therefore to his duty in the baſket-maker's ſervice, and conſidered him from that time forward as one who was, and ought to be treated as, inferior to their benefactor.

Men, women, and children, from all corners of the iſland came in droves for coronets; and, ſetting the inſtructed gentleman to work to gather boughs and poles, made a fine hut to lodge the baſket-maker, and brought down daily from the country ſuch proviſions as they lived upon themſelves, taking care to offer the imagined ſervant nothing till his maſter had done eating.

A month's reflection in this mortified condition gave a new turn to our gentleman's improved ideas; inſomuch, that lying weeping one night, he thus confeſſed his ſentiments in favour of the baſket-maker:

I have been to blame, and wanted judgment to diſtinguiſh between accident and excellence. The preference fortune gives is empty

empty and imaginary; and I perceive too late, that only things of uſe are naturally honourable. I am aſhamed, when I compare my malice, to remember your humanity: but if the gods ſhould pleaſe to call me to a repoſſeſſion of my rank and happineſs, I would divide all with you in atonement of my juſtly-puniſhed arrogance.

He performed his promiſe; for the king ſoon after ſent the captain who had landed them with preſents to the ſavages, and orders to bring both back again. It continues a cuſtom in that iſland, to degrade all gentlemen, who cannot give a better reaſon for their pride, than that they were born to do nothing. And the word for this due puniſhment is,

Send him to the BASKET-MAKER'S.

A ſingular Inſtance of AFFECTION *between two* BRUTES.

IT was cuſtomary for thoſe who were unable to pay ſix-pence for a ſight of the wild beaſts in the tower, to bring a dog or a cat as an oblation to the beaſts, in lieu of money to the keeper. Among others, a fellow had caught up a pretty black ſpaniel in the ſtreets, and he was accordingly thrown into the cage of the great lion. Immediately the little animal trembled and ſhivered, and crouched and threw itſelf on its back, put forth its tongue, and held up its paws in ſupplicating attitudes, as an acknowledgment of ſuperior power, and praying for mercy. In the mean time, the lordly brute, inſtead of devouring it, beheld it with an eye of philoſophic inſpection.

He turned it over with one paw, and then turned it with the other; and ſmelled to it, and ſeemed deſirous of courting a further acquaintance.

The

The keeper, on ſeeing this, brought a large meſs of his own family dinner; but the lion kept aloof and refuſed to eat, keeping his eye on the dog, and inviting him as it were to be his taſter. At length the little animal's fears being ſomewhat abated, and his appetite quickened by the ſmell of the victuals, he approached ſlowly, and, with trembling, ventured to eat.

The lion then advanced gently, and began to partake, and they finiſhed their meal very lovingly together.

From this day the ſtricteſt friendſhip commenced between them, a friendſhip conſiſting of all poſſible affection and tenderneſs on the part of the lion, and of the utmoſt confidence and boldneſs on the part of the dog; inſomuch, that he would lay himſelf down to ſleep, within the fangs and under the jaws of his terrible patron.

A gentleman who had loſt the ſpaniel, and had advertiſed a reward of two guineas to the finder, at length heard of the adventure, and went to reclaim his dog. You ſee, ſir, ſaid the keeper, it would be a great pity to part ſuch loving friends. However, if you inſiſt upon your property, you muſt even be pleaſed to take him yourſelf; it is a taſk that I would not engage in for five hundred guineas. The gentleman roſe into great wrath, but finally choſe to acquieſce, rather than have a perſonal diſpute with the lion.

But let us proceed to the tragic cataſtrophe

of this extraordinary ſtory, which muſt ſenſibly touch every heart with ſorrow.

In about twelve months the little ſpaniel ſickned and died, and left his loving patron the moſt deſolate of creatures. For a time, the lion did not appear to conceive otherwiſe than that his favourite was aſleep. He would continue to ſmell at him, and then would ſtir him with his noſe, and turn him over with his paws; but finding that all his efforts to awake him were vain, he would traverſe his cage from end to end at a ſwift and uneaſy pace, then ſtop, and look down upon him with a fixed and drooping regard; and again lift his head on high, and open his horrible throat, and prolong a roar, as of diſtant thunder, for ſeveral minutes.

They attempted, but in vain, to convey the carcaſe from him; he watched it perpetually, and would ſuffer nothing to touch it. The keeper then endeavoured to tempt him with variety of victuals, but he turned from all that was offered with loathing. They then put ſeveral livings dogs into his cage, and theſe he inſtantly tore piecemeal, but left their members on the floor. His paſſions being thus enflamed, he would dart his fangs into the boards, and pluck away large ſplinters, and again grapple at the bars of his cage, and ſeemed enraged at his reſtraint from tearing the world to pieces.

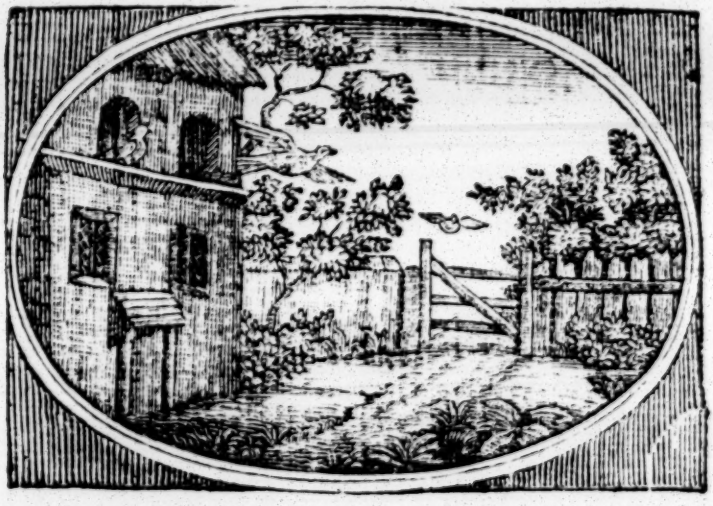
Again, as quite ſpent, he would ſtretch himſelf by the remains of his beloved aſſociate, and gather him in with his paws, and

put

put him to his boſom, and then utter roars of ſuch a terrible melancholy, as ſeemed to threaten all round, for the loſs of his little play-fellow, the only friend, the only companion, that he had upon earth.

For five days he thus languiſhed, and gradually declined, without taking any ſuſtenance, or admitting any comfort, till one morning he was found dead, with his head lovingly reclined on the carcaſe of his little friend.

They were both interred together, and their grave plentifully bedewed with the tears of the keeper and his loudly lamenting family.



The Travelling PIDGEON: *A Tale.*

TWO pidgeons, a male and female, which had been hatched from the ſame brood of eggs, and bred up together afterwards in

the ſame neſt, under the roof of an old building, in which they lived together, in mutual content and perfect happineſs, ſafely ſheltered from all the injuries of the weather, and contented with a little water and a few tares. *'Tis a treaſure to live in a deſart when we enjoy the happineſs of a friend; and there is no loſs in quitting, for the ſake of ſuch a one, all other company in the world.* But it ſeems too often the peculiar buſineſs of deſtiny to ſeparate friends. Of theſe pidgeons the one was called the *beloved*, the other the *lover*. One day the *lover* having an eager deſire to travel, imparted his deſign to his companion. Muſt we always, ſaid he, live confined to a hole? No; be it with you as you pleaſe, but for my part I am reſolved to take a tour about the world. Travellers every day meet with new things and acquire experience; and all the great and learned among our anceſtors have told us, that travelling is the only means to acquire knowledge. *If the ſword be never unſheathed, it can never ſhew the valour of the perſon that wears it; and if the pen takes not its run through the extent of a page, it can never ſhew the eloquence of the author that uſes it.* The heavens, by reaſon of their perpetual motion, exceed in glory and delight the regions beneath them; and the dull brute earth is the ſolid place for all creatures to tread upon, only becauſe it is immoveable. If a tree could remove itſelf from one place to another, it would neither be afraid

afraid of the ſaw or the wedge, nor expoſed to the ill uſage of the wood-mongers.

All this is true, ſaid the *beloved*; but my dear companion, you know not, nor have you ever yet undergone the fatigues of travel, or do you underſtand what it is to live in foreign countries; and believe me, travelling is a tree, the chiefeſt fruit of which is labour and diſquiet. If the fatigues of travelling are very great, anſwered the *lover*, they are abundantly rewarded with the pleaſure of ſeeing a thouſand rarities; and when people are once grown accuſtomed to labour, they look upon it to be no hardſhip.

Travelling, replied the *beloved*, my dear companion, is never delightful but when we travel in the company of our friends; for when we are at a far diſtance from them, beſides that we are expoſed to the injuries of the weather, we are grieved to find ourſelves ſeparated from what we love: Therefore take, my deareſt, the advice which my tenderneſs ſuggeſts to you: Never leave the place where you live at eaſe, nor forſake the object of your deareſt affection.

If I find theſe hardſhips unſupportable, replied the *lover*, believe me I will return in a little time. If I do not, be aſſured that I am happy, and let the conſciouſneſs of that make you likewiſe ſo. After they had thus reaſoned the caſe together, they went to their reſt, and meeting the next morning, the *lover* being

immoveable in his reſolution, took their leaves of each other, and ſo parted.

The *lover* left his hole, like a bird that had made his eſcape out of a cage; and as he went on his journey, was raviſhed with delight at the proſpect of the mountains, rivers, and gardens, which he flew over; and arriving towards evening at the foot of a little hill, where ſeveral rivulets ſhaded with lovely trees watered the enamelled meadows, he reſolved to ſpend the night in a place that ſo effectually reſembled a terreſtrial paradiſe. But, alas! how ſoon began he to feel the viciſſitudes of fortune! Hardly had he betaken himſelf to his repoſe upon a tree, when the air grew gloomy, and blazing gleams of lightning began to flaſh againſt his eyes, while the thunder rattled along the plains, and became doubly terrible by its echoes from the neighbouring mountains. The rain alſo and the hail came down together in whole torrents, and made the poor pidgeon hop from bough to bough, beaten, wetted to the ſkin, and in continual terror of being conſumed in a flaſh of lightning. In ſhort, he ſpent the night ſo ill, that he already heartily repented his having left his comrade.

The next morning, the ſun having diſperſed the clouds, the lover was prudent enough to take his leave of the tree, with a full reſolution to make the beſt of his way home again; he had not however flown fifty yards, when a ſparrow-hawk, with a keen appetite, perceiving

ceiving our traveller, purſued him upon the wing. The pidgeon, ſeeing him at a diſtance, began to tremble; and as he approached nearer, utterly deſpairing ever to ſee his friend again, and no leſs ſorry that he had not followed her advice, proteſted that if ever he eſcaped that danger, he would never more think of travelling. In this time the ſparrow-hawk had overtaken, and was juſt ready to ſeize him, and tear him in pieces, when a hungry eagle lancing down with a full ſtoop upon the ſparrow-hawk, cried out, Hold, let me devour that pidgeon to ſtay my ſtomach, till I find ſomething elſe more ſolid. The ſparrow-hawk, however, no leſs courageous than hungry, would not, though unequal in ſtrength, give way to the eagle; ſo that the two birds of prey fell to fighting one with another, and in the mean time the poor pidgeon eſcaped, and perceiving a hole ſo ſmall that it would hardly give entrance to a titmouſe, yet made ſhift to ſqueeze himſelf into it, and ſo ſpent the night in a world of fear and trouble. By break of day he got out again, but he was now become ſo weak for want of food that he could hardly fly; and he had not yet half recovered himſelf from the fear he was in the day before: As he was however full of terror, looking round about him to ſee whether the ſparrow-hawk or the eagle appeared, he ſpied a pidgeon in a field, at a ſmall diſtance, with a great deal of corn ſcattered in the place where he was feeding.

ing. The *lover* rejoiced at the ſight, drew near this happy pidgeon, as he thought him, and without compliments fell to: But he had hardly pecked three grains before he found himſelf caught by the legs. *The pleaſures of this world indeed are generally but ſnares which the devil lays for us.*

Brother, ſaid the *lover* to the other pidgeon, we are both of one and the ſame ſpecies; wherefore then did you not inform me of this piece of treachery, that I might not have fallen into theſe ſpringes they have laid for us. To which the other anſwered, forbear complaints, no body can prevent his deſtiny; nor can all the prudence of man preſerve him from inevitable accidents. The *lover* on this, next beſought him to teach him ſome expedient to free himſelf from the danger that threatened him. Poor innocent creature, anſwered the other, if I knew any means to do this, doſt thou not think I would make uſe of it to deliver myſelf, that ſo I might not be the occaſion of ſurprizing others of my fellow-creatures? Alas! unfortunate friend, thou art but like the young camel, who weary with travelling, cried to his mother with tears in his eyes, O mother without affection! ſtop a little, that I may take breath and reſt myſelf. To whom the mother replied, O ſon without conſideration! ſeeſt thou not that my bridle is in the hand of another? Were I at liberty, I would gladly both throw down my burden, and give thee my aſſiſtance: But alas! we

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muſt both ſubmit to what we cannot avoid or prevent. Our traveller perceiving, by this diſcourſe, that all hopes of relief from others were in vain, reſolved to rely on himſelf, and ſtrengthened by his own deſpair, with much ſtriving and long fluttering at length broke the ſnare, and taking the benefit of his unexpected good fortune, bent his flight toward his own country; and ſuch was his joy for having eſcaped ſo great a danger, that he even forgot his hunger. However at length paſſing through a village, and lighting, merely for a little reſt, upon a wall that was over-againſt a field newly ſown, a countryman that was keeping the birds from his corn, perceiving the pidgeon, flung a ſtone at him, and while the poor *lover* was dreaming of nothing leſs than of the harm that was ſo near him, hit him ſo terrible a blow, that he fell quite ſtunn'd into a deep and dry well that was at the foot of the wall. By this however he eſcaped being made the countryman's ſupper, who not being able to come at his prey, left it in the well, and never thought more of it. There the pidgeon remained all the night long in the well with a ſad heart, and a wing half broken. During the night his misfortunes would not permit him to ſleep, and a thouſand and a thouſand times he wiſhed himſelf at home with his friend; the next day, however, he ſo beſtir'd himſelf, that he got out of the well, and towards evening arrived at his old habitation.

The *beloved* hearing the fluttering of her companion's wings, flew forth with a more than ordinary joy to meet him: but seeing him so weak and in so bad a condition, asked him tenderly the reason of it: Upon which the *lover* told her all his adventures, protesting heartily to take her advice for the future, and never to travel more.

The greedy and ambitious CAT.

THERE was formerly an old woman in a village, extremely thin, half-starved, and meagre. She lived in a little cottage as dark and gloomy as a fool's heart, and withal as close shut up as a miser's hand. This miserable creature had for the companion of her wretched retirement a cat meagre and lean as herself;

herſelf; the poor creature never ſaw bread, nor beheld the face of a ſtranger, and was forced to be contented with only ſmelling the mice in their holes, or ſeeing the prints of their feet in the duſt. If by ſome extraordinary lucky chance this miſerable animal happened to catch a mouſe, ſhe was like a beggar that diſcovers a treaſure; her viſage and her eyes were enflamed with joy, and that booty ſerved her for a whole week; and out of the exceſs of her admiration, and diſtruſt of her own happineſs, ſhe would cry out to herſelf, Heavens! Is this a dream, or is it real? One day, however, ready to die with hunger, ſhe got upon the ridge of her enchanted caſtle, which had long been the manſion of famine for cats, and ſpied from thence another cat, that was ſtalking upon a neighbour's walk like a lion, walking along as if ſhe had been counting her ſteps, and ſo fat that ſhe could hardly go. The old woman's cat, aſtoniſhed to ſee a creature of her own ſpecies ſo plump and ſo large, with a loud voice cries out to her purſy neighbour, in the name of pity *Speak to me, thou happieſt of the cat-kind!* Why, you look as if you came from one of the Khan* of *Kathai*'s feaſts; I conjure ye, to tell me how, or in what region it is that you get your ſkin ſo well ſtuffed? Where, replied the fat one? Why, where ſhould one feed well but at a king's

* A Nobleman in the Eaſt famous for his Hoſpitality.

king's table? I go to the houſe, continued ſhe, every day about dinner-time, and there I lay my paws upon ſome delicious morſel or other, which ſerves me till the next, and then leave enough for an army of mice, which under me live in peace and tranquillity; for why ſhould I commit murder for a piece of tough and ſkinny mouſe fleſh, when I can live on veniſon at a much eaſier rate. The lean cat on this eagerly enquired the way to this houſe of plenty, and entreated her plump neighbour to carry her one day along with her. Moſt willingly, ſaid the fat puſs, for thou ſeeſt I am naturally charitable, and thou art ſo lean that I heartily pity thy condition. On this promiſe they parted; and the lean cat returned to the old woman's chamber, where ſhe told her dame the ſtory of what had befallen her. The old woman prudently endeavoured to diſſuade her cat from proſecuting her deſign, admoniſhing her withal to have a care of being deceived; for believe me, ſaid ſhe, *the deſires of the ambitious are never to be ſatiated, but when their mouths are ſtuffed with the dirt of their graves.* Sobriety and temperance are the only things that truly enrich people. I muſt tell thee, poor ſilly cat, that they who travel to ſatisfy their ambition, have no knowledge of the good things they poſſeſs, *nor are they truly thankful to heaven for what they enjoy, who are not contented with their fortune.*

The poor ſtarved cat, however, had conceived ſo fair an idea of the king's table, that the

the old woman's good morals, and judicious remonſtrances, entered in at one ear and went out at the other; in ſhort, ſhe departed the next day with the fat puſs to go to the king's houſe; but alas! before ſhe got thither, her deſtiny had laid a ſnare for her. For being a houſe of good cheer, it was ſo haunted with cats, that the ſervants had, juſt at this time, orders to kill all the cats that came near it, by reaſon of a great robbery committed the night before in the king's larder by ſeveral grimalkins. The old woman's cat, however, puſhed on by hunger, entered the houſe, and no ſooner ſaw a diſh of meat unobſerved by the cooks, but ſhe made a ſeizure of it, and was doing what for many years ſhe had not done before, that is, heartily filling her belly; but as ſhe was enjoying herſelf under the dreſſer-board, and feeding well upon her ſtolen morſels, one of the teſty officers of the kitchen miſſing his breakfaſt, and ſeeing where the poor cat was ſolacing herſelf with it, threw his knife at her with ſuch an unlucky hand, that he ſtuck her full in the breaſt. However, as it has been the providence of nature to give this creature nine lives inſtead of one, poor puſs made a ſhift to crawl away, after ſhe had for ſome time ſhammed dead; but, in her flight, obſerving the blood come ſtreaming from her wound, well ſaid ſhe, let me but eſcape this accident, and if ever I quit my old hold and my own nice for all the rarities in

the king's kitchen, may I loſe all my nine lives at once.

The MERCHANT *and his* LEWD CHILDREN.

A Certain Merchant, a man well ſkilled in the affairs of the world, falling ſick, and perceiving that his age and diſtemper would not long permit him to live, called his three ſons together, who were very debauched, and waſted his eſtate in riot and diſorder. Sons, ſaid he, I know you may be in ſome meaſure excuſed for thus conſuming my eſtate, inaſmuch as that you know not what it coſt to get it: but it becomes you to learn, at leaſt, that riches ſhould be only properly made inſtrumental to acquire the bleſſings of heaven and earth. There are three things

that

that men of different tempers and diſpoſitions labour for in this world with more than ordinary vehemence. The firſt is, to enjoy all the pleaſures of life; and the ſeekers after theſe are the people who are addicted to intemperance, and abandon themſelves to ſenſual delights. The ſecond is, to obtain high dignities and preferments. Thoſe who endeavour after theſe are the ambitious, who only love to command and be admired. The third is to acquire more valuable and more laſting joys, the joys of heaven; and to take delight in doing good to others. Thoſe who place their happineſs in theſe noble enjoyments, deſerve the higheſt admiration and applauſe. But, my ſons, there is no way to attain this laſt great end, but by the means of wealth well got. Now ſeeing that what we ſeek for in this world is not to be had without money, *That*, as it can procure us whatever we ſearch for, muſt be firſt of all acquired, and moſt carefully preſerved: But they who meet an eſtate already got to their hands, know not the trouble of getting it, and that's the reaſon they conſume it ſo prodigally. Therefore, dear children, give over this irregular life, take care of yourſelves, and rather endeavour to increaſe your eſtates, than to waſte them in theſe idle extravagancies. Father, replied the eldeſt ſon, you command us to acquire; but you ſhould conſider that acquiſition depends only upon fortune. This alſo I am perfectly convinced of, that we ſhall

never want what is deſtined us, though we ſhould never ſtir a foot to obtain it: On the other ſide, we ſhall never be maſters of what is not ordained for us, though we ſhould torment ourſelves to death in the endeavouring after it. I remember an old proverb: *Whenever I fled what deſtiny had allotted, I always met with it: but whenever I ſought for that which never was appointed me, I never could find it.* This is clearly to be ſeen by the fable of the old king's two ſons; of which, one diſcovered his father's treaſures, and gained the kingdom with little trouble, whilſt the other loſt it, though he did all he could to preſerve it. The father on this deſired that he might hear this ſtory, which his ſon rehearſed as follows.

In the county of *Ardos**, there lived an ancient king who had two ſons, both covetous, yet given to debauchery. This monarch finding the infirmities of age encreaſe upon him, and that he was haſtening to the other world, and conſidering the humour of his two ſons, was much afraid that after his death they would diſſipate in idle expences the vaſt treaſure which he had heaped together, and therefore reſolved to hide it. With this deſign he went to a religious hermit who had retired from the world, and in whom he had a very great confidence. By the council of this hermit

* *Ardos* is a Province to the North Eaſt of the River *Indus*.

mit the treaſure was buried in the earth near where the hermit dwelt, ſo privately that no body knew any thing of it. This done, the king made his will, which he put into the hermit's hands, with theſe farther orders. I charge you, ſaid he, not to reveal this treaſure to my children, till, after my death, you ſee them in the diſtreſſes of poverty. It may be, added the king, that when they have ſuffered a little hardſhip, they will become more prudent in their conduct.

The hermit having promiſed all fidelity in the obſervance of the king's commands, the monarch returned to his palace, and in a ſhort time after died; nor did the hermit long ſurvive him: The treaſure therefore lay concealed, probably for ever to continue ſo, in the hermitage. The king being now dead, the ſons could not agree about the ſucceſſion. This occaſioned a bloody war between them; and the eldeſt, who was the more powerful, utterly deſpoiled his younger brother of all that he had. This young prince thus deprived of his inheritance, fell into a deep melancholy, and reſolved to quit the world; for which purpoſe he left the city, and calling to mind the kindneſs between his father and the hermit, there is no other way for me, ſaid he to himſelf, but to find out this honeſt man, that I may learn of him to live as he does, and end my life in peace and contentedneſs in his company. With this reſolution he left the city, but coming to the hermitage, found that the

hermit was dead. He was greatly afflicted and diſappointed at this unexpected change, but at length came to a reſolution to live as he had done, and accordingly made choice of his retirement for his habitation.

Now there was in this hermitage a well, which had been uſed to ſupply the place with water, but it was now dry; to enquire into the cauſe of this the unhappy prince ventured to let himſelf down to the bottom of the well: But how great was his aſtoniſhment, when he ſaw the lower part of it for a great depth filled with his father's treaſures. On finding this he was thankful to heaven, and wiſely took up a reſolution to lay out his money with more moderation than he had done.

On the other hand, his brother (who ſat ſecurely revelling upon his throne without any care of his people or his army, imagining that his father's treaſure was hid in the palace, as he had told him upon his death-bed) one day being at war with a neighbouring prince, was obliged to have recourſe to his expected treaſure. But how was he amazed, after he had fought a long time and found nothing! This quite diſabled him from raiſing a powerful army, and threw him into a very great fit of melancholy. However, making a virtue of neceſſity, he raiſed what force he could, and marched out of the city, to meet and encounter his enemy. The battle was obſtinate, and this king and his enemy were both ſlain; ſo that the two armies, enraged

raged at the loſs of their leaders, fell to butcher each other with equal fury, till at length the generals having agreed together, that it would be their better way to chuſe a mild and gentle king for the government of the ſtate, went and found out the young prince, who was retired to the hermitage, conducted him in great pomp to the royal palace, and ſet him upon the throne.

The two TRAVELLERS.

THERE were once two friends, who made a reſolution never to leave each other. In purſuance of this, for a long time, they always travelled together. But one day as they were journeying in ſearch of their common advantages, they came to a deep river, at the foot of a hill; and the place was ſo delighful,

lightful, that they reſolved to reſt themſelves by the ſtream. After they were well refreſhed, they began to look about them, and pleaſe their eyes with what they could diſcover moſt curious in ſo pleaſant a place; and at length caſt their eyes upon a white ſtone, that contained the following words written in blue letters.

Travellers, we have prepared an excellent banquet for your welcome; but you muſt be bold and deſerve it before you can obtain it. What you are to do is this: Throw yourſelves boldly into this fountain, and ſwim to the other ſide; you ſhall there meet with a lion carved in white ſtone; this you muſt take upon your ſhoulders, and without ſtopping run with it to the top of yonder mountain, never fearing the wild beaſts that ſurround you, nor the thorns that prick your feet; for be aſſured, nothing will hurt you: and as ſoon as you are got to the top of the hill, you will immediately find yourſelves in poſſeſſion of great felicity: but if you ceaſe going forward, you ſhall never come to the happineſs; nor ſhall the ſlothful ever attain to what is here prepared for the induſtrious.

Then *Ganem*, for that was the name of one of the two companions, ſays to *Salem*, (for ſo was the other called) brother, here is a means preſcribed us that will put an end to all our pains and travel: let us take courage and try whether what this ſtone contains be true or falſe. Dear brother, replied *Salem*, 'tis not

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for a man of ſenſe to give credit to ſuch an idle writing as this appears to me to be; and in a vain expectation of I know not what uncertain gain, to throw himſelf into evident danger. Friend, replied *Ganem*, they who have courage contemn danger, to make themſelves happy; there is no gathering the roſe, without being pricked by the thorns. Be that as it will, anſwered *Salem*, it is but a romantic valour that prompts us to attempt enterprizes, the end of which we know not, even though we ſhould ſucceed: and if we are in our ſenſes, we muſt ſee that it is not our buſineſs, for the ſake of a dark promiſe, to throw ourſelves into this water, that ſeems to be a kind of an abyſs, from whence it may not be ſo eaſy to get out again. A rational man, brother, never moves one of his feet till the other be fixed. Perhaps this writing may be a mere whim, the idle diverſion of ſome wandering beggar; or even if it ſhould be real, perhaps when you have croſſed this river, this lion of ſtone may prove ſo heavy, that you may not be able to do as you are ordered, and run with it, without ſtopping, to the top of the mountain. But ſuppoſing even that all this were eaſy for you to perform, yet truſt me, 'tis not worth while to attempt it; for when you have done what ever is to be done, you know not what will be the iſſue of your trouble. For my part I will be no ſharer with you in dangers of this kind, but ſhall uſe all my rhetoric to endeavour to diſſuade you from

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ſuch idle and chimerical undertakings. No perſuaſions, replied *Ganem*, ſhall make me alter my reſolution: And therefore if you will not follow me, dear friend, at leaſt be pleaſed to ſee me venture. *Salem*, ſeeing him ſo reſolute, cried out, deareſt brother, if you are weak enough, in your reaſon, to determine on this raſh, and to me diſtracted, undertaking, give me a laſt embrace, and farewel for ever; you have refuſed my admonitions, and I have not the power to ſtay and be a witneſs of your ruin. On this they took a parting embrace; and *Salem*, taking his leave of his, as he ſuppoſed, unhappy brother, ſet forward upon his journey.

On the other hand, *Ganem* went to the brink of the river, reſolving to periſh, or to win the prize. He found it deep, but, ſtrengthened by his courage, he threw himſelf in, and ſwam to the other ſide. When he had recovered the dry land, he reſted himſelf a while; and then lifting up the lion, which he ſaw before him, with all his might ran with it, without ſtopping, to the top of the mountain. When he had reached the top, he had before him the proſpect of a very fair and glorious city, which, as he was attentively viewing, there iſſued from the lion of ſtone ſuch a terrible thundering noiſe, that the mountain, and all the places round about it, trembled. This noiſe no ſooner reached the ears of the inhabitants of the city, but they came running up to *Ganem*, who was not a little aſtoniſhed to

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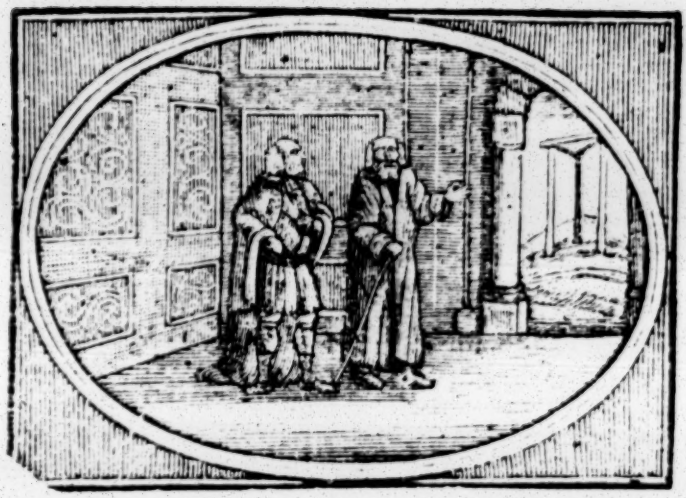
ſee them; and preſently ſome that ſeemed to be ſuperior to the reſt in quality and degree, accoſted him with great reſpect and ceremony; and after they had harangued him with many large encomiums, they ſet him upon a horſe ſumptuouſly capariſoned, conducted him to the city, where they made him put on the royal robes, and proclaimed him King of all their country. When this ceremony was over, and the inhabitants ſeemed all well pleaſed with their King, the new monarch deſired to underſtand the reaſon of his advancement. To which they anſwered, that the learned men of the kingdom had, in regard to the future happineſs of their country, by virtue of a taliſman, ſo charmed the fountain which he had croſſed, and the lion of ſtone, which he carried to the top of a mountain, that whenever their King died, any one who was ſo adventurous as to expoſe himſelf to the hazards he had done, and brought the lion ſafe to the top of the mountain, had this reward for his courage: In conſequence, when the lion roared out ſo prodigiouſly, we came forth immediately in ſearch of the perſon who had arrived with it, to make him our king. This cuſtom, purſued they, has been of long continuance, and was meant to enſure us for our king, a man of courage and reſolution; and ſince the lot has fallen upon your majeſty, may you long enjoy the reward of your virtue in a proſperous reign over a great and a happy people.

The NIGHTINGALE *and the* COUNTRYMAN.

A Countryman had a Roſe Buſh in his garden, which he made his ſole pleaſure and delight. Every morning he went to look upon it, in the ſeaſon of its flowering, and ſee the roſes ready to blow. One day as he was admiring, according to his cuſtom, the beauty of the flowers, he ſpied a nightingale perched upon one of the branches near a very fine flower, and plucking off the leaves of it one after another. This put him into ſo great a paſſion that the next day he laid a ſnare for the nightingale, in revenge of the wrong; in which he ſucceeded ſo well, that he took the bird and immediately put her in a cage. The nightingale, very melancholy to ſee herſelf in that condition, with a mournful voice aſked the countryman the reaſon of her ſlavery. To whom he replied, knoweſt thou not that my

my whole delight was in thoſe flowers, which thou waſt wantonly deſtroying; every leaf that thou pluckedſt from that roſe was a drop of blood from my heart. Alas! replied the nightingale, you uſe me very ſeverely for having cropt a few leaves from a roſe; but expect to be uſed harſhly in the other world, for afflicting me in this manner; for *there* all people are uſed after the ſame manner as they *here* uſe the other animals. The countryman, moved with theſe words, gave the nightingale her liberty again; for which ſhe, willing to thank him, ſaid, ſince you have had compaſſion in your nature, and have done me this favour, I will repay your kindneſs in the manner it deſerves. Know therefore, continued ſhe, that, at the foot of yonder tree, there lies buried a pot full of gold, go and take it, and heaven bleſs you with it. The countryman digged about the tree, and, finding the pot, was aſtoniſhed at the nightingale's ſagacity in diſcovering it: I wonder, ſaid he to her, that, being able to ſee this pot, which was buried under ground, you could not diſcover the net that was ſpread for your captivity? Know you not, replied the nightingale, that, however ſharp-ſighted or prudent we are, we can never eſcape our deſtiny.



A HERMIT *who quitted the deſart to live at Court.*

THERE was once in a remote part of his Majeſty's (my hitherto moſt gracious maſter) dominions, a certain Hermit, who had renounced the pleaſures of the world, and led a very auſtere life in a wilderneſs. His virtue, in a ſmall time, made ſuch a noiſe in the world, that an infinite number of people flocked every day to viſit him, ſome out of curioſity, and others to conſult him upon ſeveral different matters. The fame of this Hermit's wiſdom and virtue ſpread every day more and more. The King of the country, who was very devout, and who loved all virtuous and worthy men, no ſooner underſtood that there was in his kingdom a perſon of ſo much knowledge and goodneſs, but he rode to ſee him, made him a noble preſent,

ſent, and deſired that he might hear ſome of his learned and virtuous exhortations. On this deſire of the Monarch, the Hermit began and laid before him a moſt glorious ſcene of true knowledge. Sir, ſaid he, the Almighty Governor of the univerſe has two habitations, the one periſhable, which is the world; the other eternal, which is the abode of the bleſſed hereafter. 'Tis not for your Majeſty, therefore, to dote upon the felicities of the earth; you ought to aſpire to thoſe eternal treaſures, the meaneſt part of which is of a nobler value than all the principalities of the world: Try then, ſacred ſir, with earneſtneſs to attain the poſſeſſion of thoſe eternal bleſſings, and you ſhall not loſe the reward of your endeavours. The monarch, on this, demanded by what aſſiduities they might be acquired? By a ſeries of virtuous actions alone, replied the Hermit, particularly by relieving the poor, and ſuccouring the diſtreſſed; for of this be ever mindful: All Princes that deſire to enjoy eternal repoſe, muſt labour to give temporal tranquility to their ſubjects.

The King was ſo taken with this diſcourſe, that he took a reſolution to ſpend ſome hours with this good Hermit every day, and ſo for the preſent returned to his palace. Long continued he every day his viſits to this oracle of truth: Amongſt the reſt, one day, as the King and the Hermit were together in the Hermitage, they ſaw a confuſed multitude

of people thronging toward them, and rending the air with the loud cries of *juſtice, juſtice.* The Hermit went to the door of the cave, and bade them draw near, examined them; and, having underſtood their differences, made a quick and peaceful accommodation between them, ſending them away all praying for a thouſand bleſſings on him. The King, upon this, admiring the Hermit's prudence and diſpatch, deſired him that he would favour him ſo far, for the ſake of the public good, as ſometimes to leave his tranquil abode for a few hours, and be preſent in his councils. The Hermit readily agreed to this, believing he might be beneficial to the poor; and afterwards was frequently in thoſe aſſemblies; and the King ever pronounced his decrees according to his judgment, inſomuch, that at length he became ſo neceſſary, that nothing was done in the kingdom without his advice.

The Hermit now beginning to find that men made their addreſſes to him, began to forget his determined ſolitude and humility, and ſoon took upon him the rank and quality of chief miniſter. To which end he provided himſelf with a rich livery and a numerous train. He now forgot his auſterities, his penances, and his prayers, and looking upon himſelf as one that would be greatly miſſed in the government, took great care of his own perſon, lay ſoft, and fed upon the moſt exquiſite dainties: And the King, who was very

very well ſatisfied with the Hermit, let him do as he pleaſed; and, in ſhort, diſcharged upon his ſhoulders the whole burden of his care.

One day another Hermit, a friend to him that lived at court, coming to viſit his brother, with whom he had frequently ſpent whole nights in prayer, and whole days in faſting and penitence, was aſtoniſhed to ſee him arrayed in coſtly habits and environed with a great number of ſervants; reſerving his patience, however, till night locked up all the court in dark retirement, when all was huſhed, accoſting the courtier Hermit in a moſt pathetic manner, Oh, my dear friend, ſaid he, in what condition do I find you? What a ſtrange alteration is this? and what is now become of all the ſanctity that you uſed to pretend to? The court Hermit would fain have excuſed himſelf, by ſaying, That he was conſtrained to keep ſo great a train: But his brother, who was a perſon of wit and judgment, ſaid, theſe excuſes are the dictates of ſenſuality; I ſee that wealth and preferments have enchanted your devotion. What Demon has put you out of conceit with your praying life? and why, forgetting the duties of a retired ſtation, do you here prefer noiſe before ſilence, and tumult before eaſe? Think not, anſwered the court Hermit, that the buſineſs of the court is any hindrance to me from continuing my devotions; no, brother, I continue them with more than wonted

fervour, and hourly return my humble thanks to Heaven for placing me in a ſtation where I may do good in the world. You deceive yourſelf, replied the brother Hermit, to think that your prayers can be heard, while you are environed with the cares and pomps of the world, as they were, when holy and heavenly duties took up all our time; no, no, I adjure you therefore, take my advice, break theſe chains of gold that bind you to the court, and return to your deſert; otherwiſe, be aſſured, you will, at laſt, meet with the cruel deſtiny of the Blind Man, who with his companion being ſurprized by night upon the road, entered into a meadow, there to reſt themſelves till morning; and as ſoon as day appeared, they roſe, got on ho ack, and continued their journey. Now, the blind man, inſtead of his whip, as ill fate would have it, had picked up a ſerpent that was ſtiff with cold; but having it in his hand, as it grew a little warm, he felt it ſomewhat ſofter than his whip, which pleaſed him very much; he thought he had gained by the change, and therefore never minded the loſs. In this manner he travelled ſome time; but when the ſun began to appear and illuminate the world, his companion perceived the ſerpent, and with loud cries, friend, ſaid he, you have taken up a ſerpent inſtead of your whip; throw it out of your hands, before you feel the mortal careſſes of the venomous animal. But the blind man, no leſs blind in his intellects

tellects than his body, believing that his friend had only jeſted with him to get his whip, What! ſaid he, do you envy my good luck? I loſt my whip that was worth nothing, and here my kind fortune has ſent me a new one. Pray do not take me for ſuch a changeling but that I can diſtinguiſh a ſerpent from a whip.

With that his friend replied, companion, I am obliged by the laws of friendſhip and humanity to inform you of your danger; and therefore, let me again aſſure you of your error, and conjure you, if you love your life, throw away the ſerpent. To which the blind man, more exaſperated than perſuaded, Why do you take all this pains to cheat me, and preſs me thus to throw away a thing which you intend, as ſoon as I have done ſo, to pick up yourſelf? His companion, grieved at his obſtinacy, intreated him to be perſuaded of the truth, ſwore he had no ſuch deſign, and proteſted to him that what he held in his hand was a real and poiſonous ſerpent. But no proteſtations whatever could prevail; and the blind man would not alter his reſolution. The ſun, by this time began to grow high, and his beams having warmed the ſerpent by degrees, he began to crawl up the blind man's arm, which he, immediately after, bit in ſuch a venemous manner, that he gave him his death's wound.

The MONKEYS *and the* BEARS.

A Great number of monkeys once lived in a country well ſtored with all manner of fruit, and very delightful. It happened one day that a bear travelled that way by accident, and conſidering the beauty of the reſidence, and the ſweet lives the monkeys led, ſaid to himſelf, it is not juſt nor reaſonable that theſe little animals ſhould live ſo happy, whilſt I am forced to run through foreſts and mountains in ſearch of food. Full of indignation at this difference of fortune, he ran immediately among the apes, and killed ſome of them out of revenge: but they fell upon him, and being very numerous, ſoon made him all over wounds, ſo that he had much ado to make his eſcape.

Thus puniſhed for his raſhneſs, he made what haſte he could to eſcape; and at length re-

recovered a mountain within hearing of ſome of his comrades; and no ſooner ſaw himſelf there, but he ſet up ſo loud a roaring, that a great number of bears immediately came about him, to whom he recounted what had befallen him. When they had heard his ſtory out, inſtead of the emotions he expected to have found in them, they all laughed at him. Thou art a moſt wretched coward, cried they, to ſuffer thyſelf to be beaten by thoſe little animals. This is true, indeed, replied a leading bear, but, however, this affront is not to be endured; it muſt be revenged for the honour of our nation. On this they ſoon concerted proper meaſures to annoy the enemy; and toward the beginning of the night, deſcended all from the mountain, and fell pell-mell upon the monkeys, who were dreaming of nothing leſs than of ſuch an invaſion: in ſhort, they were all retired to reſt, when they were ſurrounded by the bears, who killed a great number, the reſt eſcaping in diſorder. After this exploit, the bears were ſo taken with this habitation, that they made choice of it for the place of their own ſettled abode. They ſet up for their king the bear that had been ſo ill handled by the monkeys; and after that fell to banquet upon the proviſions which the monkeys had heaped together in their magazines.

The next morning by the break of day, the king of the monkeys (who knew nothing of this fatal calamity, for he had been hunting

ing for two days together) met ſeveral monkeys maimed, who gave him an account of what had paſſed the day before. The king, when he heard this doleful news, immediately began to weep and lament the vaſt treaſure he had loſt, accuſing heaven of injuſtice, and fortune of inconſtancy. In the midſt of all his indignation and ſorrow, his ſubjects alſo preſſed him to take his revenge; ſo that the poor king knew not which way to turn himſelf. Now among the monkeys that at that time attended on this monarch, there was one called *Maimon*, who was one of the moſt crafty and learned in the court, and was the king's chief favourite. This poor creature, ſeeing his maſter ſad, and his companions in conſternation, ſtood up, and addreſſing himſelf to the king: Perſons of wit and diſcretion, ſaid he, never abandon themſelves to deſpair, which is a tree that bears but very bad fruit; but patience, on the contrary, ſupplies us with a thouſand inventions to rid ourſelves out of the intanglements of trouble and adverſity.

The king, whom this diſcourſe had rendered much more eaſy in his mind, turning to *Maimon*, ſaid, But how ſhall we do, vizier, to bring ourſelves off with honour from this ignominious misfortune? *Maimon* beſought his majeſty on this to allow him private audience; and after he had obtained it, he ſpoke to this effect.

Sir, ſaid he, I conjure you by the dear hopes

hopes of a great revenge to hear me out with patience. My heart is as much diſtracted, O my ſacred maſter, for my private, if it be poſſible, as for the public misfortune: My wife and children have been maſſacred by theſe tyrants. Imagine then my grief, to ſee myſelf deprived for ever of thoſe ſweets which I enjoyed in the ſociety of my family: And hear me with patience, and full belief, when I aſſure you I am reſolved to die, that I may put an end to my ſorrows. But my death ſhall not be idle; no, I will find means to make it prove fatal to my royal maſter's enemies. O *Maimon*, ſaid the king, conſider we never deſire to be revenged of our enemies, but with intent to procure to ourſelves repoſe or ſatisfaction of mind; but when you are dead, what ſignifies it to you whether the world be at wars or in peace? Sir, replied *Maimon*, in the condition I am in, life being unſupportable to me, I ſacrifice it with delight to the happineſs of my companions. All the favour I beg of your majeſty is, only with gratitude and compaſſion to remember my generoſity when you ſhall be re-eſtabliſhed in your dominions. What I have farther to aſk of you is this, that you will immediately command my ears to be torn from off my head, my teeth to be pulled out, and my feet to be cut off; and then let me be left for the night in a corner of the foreſt where we were lodged; then retire you, Sir, with the remainder of your ſubjects, and remove two days

days journey from hence, and on the third you may return to your palace, for you ſhall hear no more of your enemies; and may you for ever reap the bleſſings my death intends you. The king, though with great grief, cauſed *Maimon*'s deſires to be executed, and left him in the wood, where all night he made the moſt doleful lamentations that ever miſery uttered.

When day ſhone out, the king of the bears who had all night long heard *Maimon*'s out-cries, advanced to ſee what miſerable creature had made the noiſe, and beholding the poor monkey in that condition, he was moved with compaſſion, notwithſtanding his mercileſs humour, and aſked him who he was, and who had uſed him after that barbarous manner? *Maimon* judging by all appearances, that he was the king of the bears that ſpoke to him, after he had reſpectfully ſaluted him, expreſſed himſelf in the following words: Sir, ſaid he, I am the king of the monkeys chief miniſter; I went, ſome days ago, a hunting with him, and at our return, underſtanding the ravages which your majeſty's ſoldiers had committed in our houſes, he took me aſide, and aſked me what was his beſt courſe to take at ſuch a juncture? I anſwered him without any heſitation, that we ought to put ourſelves under your protection, that we might live at eaſe and unmoleſted. The king, my maſter, then talked many ridiculous things of your majeſty, which was the reaſon I took the boldneſs

boldneſs to tell him, that you were a moſt renowned prince, and beyond all compariſon more potent than he. Which audaciouſneſs of mine incenſed him to that degree, that immediately he commanded me to be thus mangled, as you ſee me.

Maimon had no ſooner concluded his relation, but he let fall ſuch a ſhower of tears, that the king of the bears was mollified alſo, and could not forbear weeping himſelf. When this was a little over, he aſked *Maimon*, where the monkeys were? In a deſert called *Mardazmay*, anſwered he, where they are raiſing a prodigious army, the whole place, for a thouſand leagues extent, being inhabited by no other creatures but monkeys; and there is no queſtion to be made but they will be with you in a very ſhort time. The king of the bears, not a little terrified at this news, aſked *Maimon*, whom he thought ſufficiently exaſperated againſt the monkey government to make him his aſſured friend, what courſe he ſhould take to ſecure himſelf from the enterpriſes of the monkeys? Face them boldly, replied *Maimon*, your Majeſty need not fear them; were not my legs broke, I would undertake with one ſingle troop of your forces to deſtroy forty thouſand of them. You adviſe me well, ſaid the king, and with your help, I doubt not but I ſhall deſtroy them. There is no queſtion but you know all the avenues to their camp. You will oblige us for ever, would you but conduct us thither;

and be aſſured we will revenge the barbarity committed upon your perſon. That, alas! is impoſſible, replied *Maimon*, becauſe I can neither go nor ſtand. There is a remedy for every thing, anſwered the king, and I will find an invention to carry you; and, at the ſame time, he gave orders for his enemy to be in readineſs to march, and to put themſelves into a condition to fight. They all readily obeyed the orders, and tied *Maimon*, who was to be their guide, upon the head of one of the biggeſt bears.

Maimon now gloried in his mind that he had it in his power to revenge all that himſelf and his country had ſuffered. And in order to it, conducted them into the deſert of *Mardazmay*, where there blew a poiſonous wind, and where the heat was ſo vehement, that no creature could live an hour in it. Now when the bears were entered into the borders of this dangerous deſart, *Maimon*, to engage them farther into it, Come, ſaid he, let us make haſte and ſurpriſe theſe accurſed wretches before day. With ſuch exhortations he kept them on the march all night; but the next day they were aſtoniſhed to find themſelves in ſo diſmal a place. They not only ſaw not ſo much as the likeneſs of a monkey, but they perceived that the ſun had ſo heated the air, that the very birds that flew over the deſart fell down, as it were, roaſted to death; and the ſand was ſo burning hot, that the bears feet were all burned to the bones. The

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king, on this, cried out to *Maimon*, Into what a deſart haſt thou brought us? And what fierce whirlwinds are theſe which I ſee coming towards us? On this the monkey, finding they were all too far advanced for the leaſt poſſibility of getting back, and therefore ſure to periſh, ſpoke boldly; and in anſwer to the king of the bears, Tyrant, ſaid he, know that we are in the deſart of death; the whirlwind that approaches us is death itſelf, which comes in a moment to puniſh thee for all thy cruelties. And while he was thus ſpeaking, the fiery whirlwind came and ſwept them all away.

Two days after this, the king of the monkeys returned to his palace, as *Maimon* foretold him; and finding all his enemies gone, continued a long reign in peace over his ſubjects.

LEONTINE *and* EUDOXUS.

AS I was yeſterday taking the air with my friend Sir Roger, we were met by a freſh-coloured ruddy young man, who rode by us full ſpeed, with a couple of ſervants behind him. Upon my enquiry who he was, Sir Roger told me that he was a young gentleman of a conſiderable eſtate, who had been educated by a tender mother that lived not many miles from the place where we were. She is a very good lady, ſays my friend, but took ſo much care of her ſon's health, that ſhe has made him good for nothing. She quickly found that reading was bad for his eyes, and that writing made his head ake. He was let looſe among the woods as ſoon as he was able to ride on horſeback, or to carry a gun upon his ſhoulders. To be brief, I found, by my friend's account of him, that he

he had got a great ſtock of health, but nothing elſe; and that if it were a man's buſineſs only to live, there would not be a more accompliſhed young fellow in the whole country.

The truth of it is, ſince my reſiding in theſe parts, I have ſeen and heard innumerable inſtances of young heirs and elder brothers, who either from reflecting upon the eſtates they are born to, and therefore thinking all other accompliſhments unneceſſary, or from hearing theſe notions frequently inculcated to them by the flattery of their ſervants and domeſtics, or from the ſame fooliſh thought prevailing in thoſe who have the care of their education, are of no manner of uſe but to keep up their families, and tranſmit their lands and houſes in a line to poſterity.

This makes me often think of a ſtory I have heard of two friends, which I ſhall give my reader at large, under feigned names. The moral of it may, I hope, be uſeful, though there are ſome circumſtances which make it rather appear like a novel, than a true ſtory.

Eudoxus and Leontine began the world with ſmall eſtates. They are both of them men of good ſenſe and great virtue. They proſecuted their ſtudies together in their earlier years, and entered into ſuch a friendſhip as laſted to the end of their lives. Eudoxus, at his firſt ſetting out in the world, threw himſelf into a court, where by his natural

endowments and his acquired abilities, he made his way from one poſt to another, till at length he had raiſed a very conſiderable fortune. Leontine, on the contrary, ſought all opportunities of improving his mind by ſtudy, converſation, and travel. He was not only acquainted with all the ſciences, but with the moſt eminent profeſſors of them throughout Europe. He knew perfectly well the intereſts of its princes, with the cuſtoms and faſhions of their courts, and could ſcarce meet with the name of an extraordinary perſon in the Gazette whom he had not either talked to or ſeen. In ſhort, he had ſo well mixt and digeſted his knowledge of men and books, that he made one of the moſt accompliſhed perſons of the age. During the whole courſe of his ſtudies and travels, he kept up a punctual correſpondence with Eudoxus, who often made himſelf acceptable to the principal men about court by the intelligence which he received from Leontine. When they were both turned of forty (an age in which, according to Mr Cowley, there is no dallying with life) they determined, purſuant to the reſolution they had taken in the beginning of their lives, to retire, and paſs the remainder of their days in the country. In order to this, they both of them married much about the ſame time. Leontine, with his own and his wife's fortune, bought a farm of three hundred a year, which lay within the neighbourhood of his friend Eudoxus, who had purchaſed an eſtate

eſtate of as many thouſands. They were both of them fathers about the ſame time, Eudoxus having a ſon born to him, and Leontine a daughter; but to the unſpeakable grief of the latter, his young wife (in whom all his happineſs was wrapt up) died in a few days after the birth of her daughter. His affliction would have been unſupportable, had not he been comforted by the daily viſits and converſations of his friend. As they were one day talking together with their uſual intimacy, Leontine, conſidering how incapable he was of giving his daughter a proper education in his own houſe, and Eudoxus reflecting on the ordinary behaviour of a ſon who knows himſelf to be the heir of a great eſtate, they both agreed upon an exchange of children, namely, that the boy ſhould be bred up with Leontine as his ſon, and that the girl ſhould live with Eudoxus as his daughter, till they were each of them arrived at the years of diſcretion. The wife of Eudoxus, knowing that her ſon could not be ſo advantageouſly brought up as under the care of Leontine, and conſidering at the ſame time that he would be perpetually under her own eye, was by degrees prevailed upon to fall in with the project. She therefore took Leonilla, for that was the name of the girl, and educated her as her own daughter. The two friends on each ſide had wrought themſelves to ſuch an habitual tenderneſs for the children who were under their direction, that each of them had

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the real paſſion of a father, where the title was but imaginary. Florio, the name of the young heir that lived with Leontine, though he had all the duty and affection imaginable for his ſuppoſed parent, was taught to rejoice at the ſight of Eudoxus, who viſited his friend very frequently, and was dictated by his natural affection, as well as by the rules of prudence, to make himſelf eſteemed and beloved by Florio. The boy was now old enough to know his ſuppoſed father's circumſtances; and that therefore he was to make his way in the world by his own induſtry. This conſideration grew ſtronger in him every day, and produced ſo good an effect, that he applied himſelf with more than ordinary attention to the purſuit of every thing which Leontine recommended to him. His natural abilities, which were very good, aſſiſted by the directions of ſo excellent a counſellor, enabled him to make a quicker progreſs than ordinary through all the parts of his education. Before he was twenty years of age, having finiſhed his ſtudies and exerciſes with great applauſe, he was removed from the univerſity to the inns of court, where there are very few that make themſelves conſiderable proficients in the ſtudies of the place, who know they ſhall arrive at great eſtates without them. This was not Florio's caſe; he found that three hundred a year was but a poor eſtate for Leontine and himſelf to live upon, ſo that he ſtudied without intermiſſion till he gained

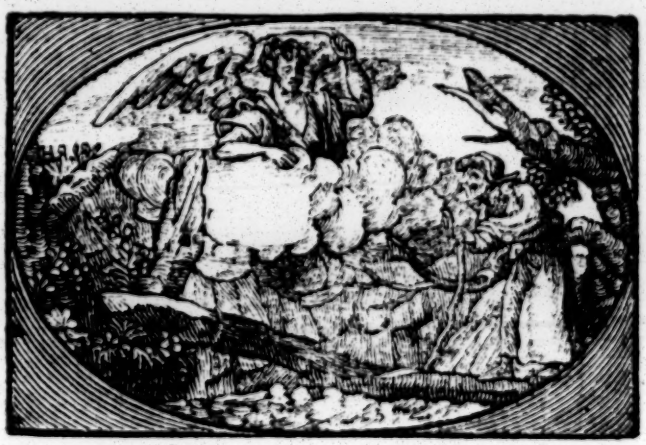
a very good inſight into the conſtitution and laws of his country.

I ſhould have told my reader, that whilſt Florio lived at the houſe of his foſter-father, he was always an acceptable gueſt in the family of Eudoxus, where he became acquainted with Leonilla from her infancy. His acquaintance with her by degrees grew into love, which in a mind trained up in all the ſentiments of honour and virtue became a very uneaſy paſſion. He deſpaired of gaining an heireſs of ſo great a fortune, and would rather have died than attempted it by any indirect methods. Leonilla, who was a woman of the greateſt beauty joined with the greateſt modeſty, entertained at the ſame time a ſecret paſſion for Florio, but conducted herſelf with ſo much prudence that ſhe never gave him the leaſt intimation of it. Florio was now engaged in all thoſe arts and improvements that are proper to raiſe a man's private fortune, and give him a figure in his country, but ſecretly tormented with that paſſion which burns with the greateſt fury in a virtuous and noble heart, when he received a ſudden ſummons from Leontine to repair to him in the country the next day; for it ſeems Eudoxus was ſo filled with the report of his ſon's reputation, that he could no longer withhold making himſelf known to him. The morning after his arrival at the houſe of his ſuppoſed father, Leontine told him that Eudoxus had ſomething of great importance to communicate

cate to him; upon which the good man embraced him, and wept. Florio was no ſooner arrived at the great houſe that ſtood in his neighbourhood, but Eudoxus took him by the hand, after the firſt ſalutes were over, and conducted him into his cloſet. He there opened to him the whole ſecret of his parentage and education, concluding after this manner: "I have no other way left of acknowledging my gratiude to Leontine, than by marrying you to his daughter. He ſhall not loſe the pleaſure of being your father by the diſcovery I have made to you. Leonilla too ſhall be ſtill my daughter; her filial piety, though miſplaced, has been ſo exemplary, that it deſerves the greateſt reward I can confer upon it. You ſhall have the pleaſure of ſeeing a great eſtate fall to you, which you would have loſt the reliſh of had you known yourſelf born to it. Continue only to deſerve it in the ſame manner you did before you were poſſeſſed of it. I have left your mother in the next room. Her heart yearns towards you. She is making the ſame diſcoveries to Leonilla which I have made to yourſelf." Florio was ſo overwhelmed with this profuſion of happineſs, that he was not able to make a reply, but threw himſelf down at his father's feet, and amidſt a flood of tears kiſſed and embraced his knees, aſking his bleſſing, and expreſſing in dumb-ſhow thoſe ſentiments of love, duty, and gratitude, that were too big for utterance.

To

To conclude, the happy pair were married, and half Eudoxus's eſtate ſettled upon them. Leontine and Eudoxus paſſed the remainder of their lives together; and received, in the dutiful and affectionate behaviour of Florio and Leonilla, the juſt recompence, as well as the natural effects, of that care which they had beſtowed upon them in their education.



The ANCHORITE *and* ANGEL: *Or a Vindication of Providence.*

AN holy anchorite being in a wilderneſs, among other contemplations fell to admire the method of providence, how out of cauſes which ſeem bad to us he produceth oftentimes good effects; how he ſuffers virtuous, loyal, and religious men to be oppreſſed, and others to proſper. As he was tranſported with theſe ideas, a goodly young man ap-

appeared to him: Father, ſaid he, I know your thoughts are diſtracted, and I am ſent to quiet them; therefore, if you will accompany me a few days, you ſhall return very well ſatisfied of thoſe doubts which now encumber your mind. So going along with him, they went to paſs over a deep river, whereon there was a narrow bridge, and meeting there with another paſſenger, the young man juſtled him into the water, and ſo drowned him. The old anchorite being much aſtoniſhed thereat, would have left him; but his guide ſaid, Father, be not amazed, becauſe I ſhall give you good reaſons for what I do, and you ſhall ſee ſtranger things than this before you and I part; but at laſt I ſhall ſettle your judgment, and put your mind in full repoſe. So going that night to lodge in an inn where there was a crew of banditti, and debauched ruffians, the young man ſtruck into their company, and revelled with them till the morning, whilſt the anchorite ſpent moſt of the night in numbering his beads; but as ſoon as they were departed thence, they met with ſome officers who went to apprehend that crew of banditti they had left behind them. The next day they came to a gentleman's houſe, which was a fair palace, where they received all the courteous hoſpitality that could be: but in the morning, as they parted, there was a child in a cradle, which was the only ſon of the gentleman; and the young man, ſpying his opportunity, ſtrangled

ſtrangled the child, and ſo got away. The third day they came to another inn, where the man of the houſe treated them with all the civility that could be, and gratis; yet the young man embezzled a ſilver goblet, and carried it away in his pocket, which ſtill encreaſed the amazement of the anchorite. The fourth day in the evening they came to lodge at another inn, where the hoſt was very ſullen and uncivil to him, exacting much more than the value of what they had ſpent; yet at parting the young man beſtowed upon him the ſilver goblet he had ſtolen from that hoſt who had uſed them ſo kindly. The fifth day they made towards a great rich town; but ſome miles before they came at it, they met with a merchant at the cloſe of the day, who had a great charge of money about him; and aſking the next paſſage to the town, the young man put him in a clean contrary way. The anchorite and his guide being come to the town, at the gate they eſpied a devil, who lay as it were centinel, but he was aſleep: they found alſo both men and women at ſundry kinds of ſports, ſome dancing, others ſinging, with divers ſorts of revellings. They went afterwards to a convent of Capuchins, where about the gate they found legions of devils laying ſiege to that monaſtery, yet they got in and lodged there that night. Being awaked the next morning the young man came to that cell where the anchorite was lodged, and told him, I know your heart is

full of horror, and your head full of confuſion, aſtoniſhment, and doubts, from what you have ſeen ſince the firſt time of our aſſociation. But know, I am an angel ſent from heaven to rectify your judgment, as alſo to correct a little your curioſity in reſearches of the ways and acts of providence too far; for though ſeparately they ſeem ſtrange to the ſhallow apprehenſion of man, yet conjunctly they all tend to produce good effects.

That man which I tumbled into the river was an act of providence; for he was going upon a moſt miſchievous deſign, that would have damnified not only his own ſoul, but deſtroyed the party againſt whom it was intended; therefore I prevented it.

The cauſe why I converſed all night with that crew of rogues, was alſo an act of providence, for they intended to go a robbing all that night; but I kept them there purpoſely till the next morning, that the hand of juſtice might ſeize upon them.

Touching the kind hoſt from whom I took a ſilver goblet, and the clowniſh or knaviſh hoſt to whom I gave it; let this demonſtrate to you that good men are liable to croſſes and loſſes, whereof bad men oftentimes reap the beneſit; but it commonly produceth patience in the one, and pride in the other.

Concerning that noble gentleman whoſe child I ſtrangled after ſo courteous an entertainment, know, that that alſo was an act of providence; for the gentleman was ſo indul-

gent

gent and doating on that child, that it leſſened his love to heaven; ſo I took away the cauſe.

Touching the merchant whom I miſguided on his way, it was likewiſe an act of providence; for had he gone the direct way to this town, he had been robbed, and his throat cut; therefore I preſerved him by that deviation.

Now concerning this great luxurious city, whereas we ſpied but one devil who lay aſleep without the gate, there being ſo many about this poor convent; you muſt conſider, that Lucifer being already aſſured of that riotous town, by corrupting their manners every day more and more, he needs but one centinel to ſecure it: but for this holy place of retirement, this monaſtery inhabited by ſo many devout ſouls, who ſpend their whole lives in acts of mortification, as exerciſes of piety and penance, he hath brought ſo many legions to beleaguer them; yet he can do no good upon them, for they bear up againſt him moſt undauntedly, maugre all his infernal power and ſtratagems.

INGRATITUDE. *An affecting Story.*

MY father's name was Belcher Saint Belial. He was under retainer to the law, and raked up a little fortune by crooked practices; ſo that he grew ambitious of preferring me his only child to the bar, and in that view ſent me to ſchool, and from ſchool to Oxford. But I ought to have begun my hiſtory earlier.

If there are devils, I ſurely had one before I ſaw the light, and was filled with the evil ſpirit from my mother's womb; inſomuch, that my nurſe died of a cancer in her breaſt, occaſioned by the envenomed bites I gave her nipple with my toothleſs gums while ſhe ſuckled me.

While an infant, I took a heart-felt pleaſure in diſmembering flies and impaling worms alive upon pins; and, when at ſchool, I was the promoter of all parties for worrying and torturing cats and dogs to death. But my

my principal amuſement lay in catching and ſleaing frogs, in ſeeing them ſpring about in the rage of their pains, and ſo leaving them to periſh in unutterable anguiſh.

As I grew in ſtature, I grew alſo in the ſtrength of my malignity. Evil became my good. My enjoyments lay in the loſs, damage, and detriment of others. I conceived a kind of envious hate againſt thoſe who had done me a benefit. I requited open friendſhip with hidden malevolence; and I cannot remember that ever I felt a ſenſe of any thing that goes by the name of gratitude, humanity, or virtue.

In ſhort, I drew to myſelf a kind of comfort from a compariſon with the miſeries that I inflicted on other creatures; and had the elements been at my controul, nothing but peſtilence and hurricane, diſtemper and lingering death, ſhould have ariſen and prevailed throughout the ſtate of nature.

At college, I got acquainted with one Clement, a gentle-tempered but weak lad, of whom I made a property. I prevailed upon him to turn away ſeveral of his ſervants, under colour of their having ſtolen the caſh, books, and other effects, of which I had ſecretly plundered him.

At length I had private intelligence that my father had been pilloried for forgery, and other double-handed dealings; that he had died of the bruiſes which he received on the execution of his ſentence; and that his effects had been ſeized by a variety of claimants.

Whereupon, without taking any notice of my father or family, I made my ſhorteſt way to London, with all that I could borrow, or lay a light hand upon, among my acquaintance.

The firſt thing I did on my arrival, was to wait upon old Clement, the father of my friend, with a forged draught upon him for a hundred pounds; on ſight of which, he ſo fretted and exclaimed, and walked about in ſuch perturbation, that I greatly feared I had overſhot my mark. At length, however, he laid me down the money, but catching up a book, ſwore that it was the laſt penny his ſon ſhould receive from him for ſix months to come.

He began to queſtion me touching the character of the young gentleman, and, under colour of praiſing him for articles to which I perceived the old man had an averſion, I exaſperated him to ſuch a degree, that he again ſwore he would hold no further correſpondence with him, until he ſhould be fully aſſured of his reformation.

Having thus effectually cut off all commerce between my friend and his father, I caſt aſide my fears of being ſuddenly brought to an account for my late acquiſition. I was even ſo daring as to take lodgings the very next door, where I got in league with a young woman of a moſt ſeducing face and perſon, but whoſe profligacy of manners was artfully covered by the moſt artleſs appearance of ſhame-faced innocence that ever graced the feigned

feigned character of any actreſs on the ſtage.

She did not attempt, however, to impoſe upon me, for kindred minds like ours inſtantly ſaw into each other; and we ſoon concerted a plan for her marrying Goodman Clement, and dividing the ſpoils of the old miſer between us.

This we eaſily brought about, and never was man ſo happy in being impoſed upon, while I ſhared with him the poſſeſſion of his purſe and his bride.

In the mean time, as I had promiſed to procure him intelligence concerning his ſon, I produced ſeveral forged letters from pretended correſpondents at Cambridge, containing ſuch account of the galliantries and other extravagancies of young Clement, as wholly alienated his father's affections from him, and he ſent him a final note, whereby he diſcarded him from his fortune for ever.

About two years thus paſſed in the full enjoyment of all that could glut fleſh and blood; though, in order to ingratiate myſelf with the old man, I appeared to him the moſt frugal and abſtemious of mankind. But one night, while Mrs Clement and I ſat together, indulging ourſelves in the hope that the good man had been knocked on the head, or had fallen dead of an apoplexy, he was brought to us in a chair pale and wounded, and told us he ſhould certainly have been murdered, had he not, by the moſt wonderful providence, met with

with his ſon, who bravely knocked down the robber, and happily delivered him; and that he had given him what caſh he had about him, with a note for five hundred pounds upon the bank.

All in a panic, and thunderſtruck as I was by this news, I yet pretended to congratulate him on the return of his ſon to his duty, but adviſed him to go to bed directly for the recovery of his health and ſpirits.

The remainder of the night I walked about, agonizing and racking my brain for ſome expedient to divert the inſtant ruin that impended, when a ſudden thought ſtarted, or was rather infuſed into me, and at dawn of day I went to an agent, who had done ſeveral jobs for me of no very laudable tendency.

When I had given him his leſſon, and put twenty guineas into his hand, he haſtily went and deſired to ſee Mr Clement on buſineſs of great conſequence, when, falling on his knees, he confeſſed with appearing penitence, that he was the perſon who had wounded him the foregoing night; that he did not intend to hurt him ſo much, but that young Mr Clement had hired him for that purpoſe, and lay in wait hard by, in order that he might appear to come in to his reſcue.

This tale was ſo feaſible, that the old man ſwallowed it as a greedy fiſh ſwallows the bait, that at the ſame time conveys the barb into his bowels. He therefore had me called to him in a hurry, told me what he had diſcovered,

covered, and gave me orders to ſtop payment of the five hundred pounds, with a haſty note to be left at the bank for his ſon.

On the way I recollected an advertiſement in the public papers, that offered a large reward for the caption of one Arabella Clement, who had been guilty of a murder, and it inſtantly occurred to me, that ſhe was probably the wife of my quondam friend and patron. Wherefore as ſoon as I had diſpatched my buſineſs at the bank, I ran and collected a number of conſtables, and waited with them aloof till I ſaw the object, whom I dreaded and deteſted above plague and poiſon, enter, and return diſcontented at the diſappointment I had prepared for him. We then dogged him at a diſtance till we ſaw him ſafe lodged, and following ſoftly up ſtairs, we demanded a woman who ſtood before us for our priſoner.

Young Clement then, all enraged, exerted himſelf with wonderful action and intrepedity. With one ſtroke of a poker he tore off my right ear, and cleft my ſhoulder to the bone; then drove us all down ſtairs, though ſeveral ſhot were fired at him.

What happened to him afterwards I knew only from report, for I lay ill of my wounds for ſeveral months together, and on my recovery could learn no tidings concerning him.

In the mean ſpace my continual fears of his appearance made my life extremely miſerable. My paramour and I had often thoughts

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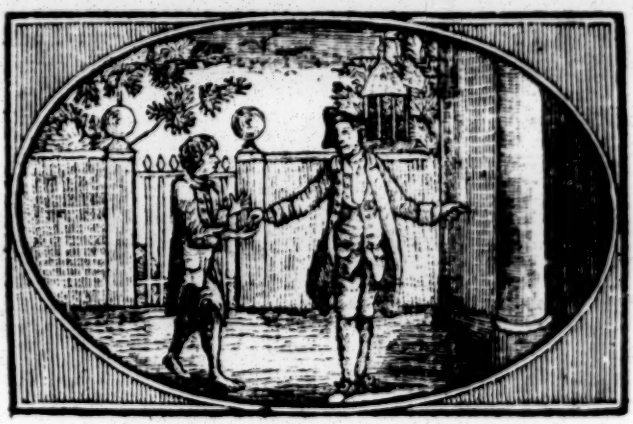
and conſultations touching the expediency of making away with the old gentleman; but it occurred to us, that young Clement might ſtill be alive, and on the death of his father might bring us to a ſevere account for his ſubſtance.

At length, about ſix weeks ago, as I returned from tranſacting an affair at St Albans, I met, and inſtantly recognized my old enemy, walking with a young gentleman, about a mile from this town. Immediately I ſtopped, and pulling my hat over my eyes, pray, gentlemen, ſaid I, am I on the right road to London? for I have travelled far, and fear I may have gone aſtray. You are on the direct road, ſaid the lad, but if you chuſe to ſtop ſhort, you are heartily welcome to a lodging with us for the night. Why, gentlemen, ſaid I, do you live in yonder town? We do, ſaid Clement. In that anſwer I had all the intelligence I deſired, and away I ſpurred.

From that time ſcarce a day paſſed wherein I did not take an airing on the ſame road, ſtill expecting and panting to meet my adverſary. I rode armed with one caſe of piſtols before me, and another in my pockets; and I determined, though I ſhould meet Clement in the midſt of an hundred men, to ſhoot him directly through the head, and truſt to the ſpeed of my horſe for my eſcape. But this day, as I returned near the farther end of the town, a white goat, purſued by a dog, ruſhed ſuddenly through a hedge, whereupon my

my horſe plunged, and one of the piſtols that was ready cocked in my waiſtcoat pocket went off, and reduced me to the condition in which you behold me.

His laſt words were ſcarce intelligible. He was ſeized with convulſions, and ſoon expired, with all the viſible horror and deſperation conceivable in Judas, when juſt about fixing the rope to his neck.



HISTORY *of* HARRY, *Son to* RICHARD *Earl of* MORELAND.

IN the reign of King Charles the II. of pleaſurable memory, Richard Earl of Moreland, having conſiderably impaired his eſtate, by rolling amidſt the pleaſures of a diſſolute court, married a citizen's daughter who wanted a title, and with her got a portion of one hundred thouſand pounds; with this lady he retreated to the country, where in leſs than

than a year ſhe made him the exulting father of a fine boy called Richard, who ſpeedily became the ſole centre of all his mother's ſollicitudes and affections. And though within the ſpace of the two ſucceeding years, ſhe was delivered of a ſecond boy, yet, as his infant aſpect was leſs promiſing and more unformed than his brother's, ſhe ſent him forth to be nurſed by the robuſt wife of a neighbouring farmer, where, for the ſpace of upwards of four years, he was honoured with no token from father or mother, ſave ſome caſual meſſages to know from time to time if the child was in health.

This boy was called Henry, after his uncle by the father's ſide. The Earl had lately ſent to London to make enquiry after his brother, but could learn no manner of tidings concerning him.

Mean while, the education of the two children was extremely contraſted. Richard, who was already entitled my little lord, was not permitted to breathe the rudeneſs of the wind. On his ſlighteſt indiſpoſition the whole houſe was in alarms; his paſſions had full ſcope in all their infant irregularities; his genius was put into a hot bed, by the warmth of applauſes given to every flight of his opening fancy; and the whole family conſpired, from the higheſt to the loweſt, to the ruin of promiſing talents and a benevolent heart.

Young Henry, on the other hand, had every member as well as feature expoſed to all weathers;

thers; would run about mother-naked, for near an hour, in a frosty morning; was neither physicked into delicacy, nor flattered into pride; scarce felt the convenience, and much less understood the vanity of cloathing; and was daily occupied in playing and wrestling with the pigs and two mungrel spaniels on the dunghill; or in kissing, scratching, or boxing with the children of the village.

When Harry had passed his fifth year, his father, on a festival day, humbly proposed to send for him to his nurse's, in order to observe how the boy might turn out; and my lady, in a fit of good humour, assented. Nurse, accordingly, decked him out in his holiday petticoats, and walked with our hero to the great house, as they called it.

A brilliant concourse of the neighbouring gentry were met in a vast parlour that appeared to be executed after the model of Westminster-hall.

All the eyes of the company were instantly drawn upon him; but he advanced, with a vacant and unobserving physiognomy, and thought no higher of the assembly than as so many peasants at a country wake.

Dicky, my dear, says my lady, go and welcome your brother; whereat Dicky went up, took Harry by the hand, and kissed him with much affection; Harry thereupon having eyed his brother, I don't know you, said he, bluntly, but at the same time held up his little mouth to kiss him again.

Dick, ſays my lady, put your laced hat upon Harry, till we ſee how it becomes him, which he immediately did; but Harry feeling an unuſual incumbrance on his head, took off the hat, and having for ſome time looked contemptuouſly at it, he caſt it from him with a ſudden and agile jerk, as he uſed to caſt flat ſtones, in order to make ducks and drakes in the mill pond. The hat took the glaſſes and decanters in full career, ſmaſh go the glaſſes, abroad pours the wine on the circling laces, Dreſden aprons, ſilver'd ſilks, and rich brocades; female ſcreams fill the parlour, the rout is equal to the uproar, and it was long ere moſt of them could be compoſed to their places.

In the mean while, Harry took no kind of intereſt in their outcries or diſtreſſes, but ſpying a large Spaniſh pointer, that juſt then came from under the table, he ſprung at him like lightning, ſeized him by the collar, and vaulted on his back with inconceivable agility. The dog wholly diſconcerted by ſo unaccuſtomed a burden, capered and plunged about in a violent manner; but Harry was a better horſeman than to be ſo eaſily diſmounted: whereon the dog grew outrageous, and ruſhing into a group of little miſſes and maſters, the children of the viſitants, he overthrew them like ninepins; thence proceeding, with equal rapidity, between the legs of Mrs Dowdy, a very fat and elderly lady, ſhe inſtantly fell backward with a violent ſhriek, and

and in her fall unfortunately overthrew Frank the foxhunter, who overthrew Andrew the angler, who overthrew Bob the beau, who cloſed the cataſtrophe.

Our hero, in the mean time, was happily diſmounted by the intercepting petticoats, and fairly laid, without damage, in the fallen lady's lap. From thence he aroſe at his leiſure, and ſtrolled about the room, with as unconcerned an aſpect as if nothing had happened amiſs, and as though he had neither act or part in this frightful diſcomfiture.

When matters were once more in ſome meaſure ſet to rights, My heavens! exclaimed my lady, I ſhall faint, the boy is poſitively an ideot; he has no apprehenſion or conception of perſons or things. Come hither, ſirrah, ſhe cried with an angry tone; but inſtead of complying, Harry caſt on her a look of reſentment, and ſidled over towards his nurſe. Dicky, my dear, ſays my lady, go and pretend to beat his mammy, that we may try if the child has any kind of ideas. Here her ladyſhip, by ill-fortune, was as much unadviſed as her favourite was unhappy in the execution of her orders; for while Dick ſtruck at the nurſe with a counterfeited paſſion, Harry inſtantly reddened, and gave his brother ſuch a ſudden paſh in the face, that his noſe and mouth guſhed out with blood. Dick ſet up the roar, my lady ſcreamed out, and riſing and running at Harry with all imaginable fury, ſhe caught him up as a falcon would

truſs a robin; turned over his petticoats, and chaſtiſed him with all the violence of which her delicacy was capable. Our hero, however, neither uttered cry or tear, but, being ſet down, he turned round on the company an eye of indignation, then cried, Come away mammy, and iſſued from the aſſembly. Harry had ſcarce made his exit, when his mother exclaimed after him, Aye, aye, take him away, nurſe, take away the little devil, and never let me ſee his face more. As Harry's ideas began to open and expand he grew ambitious of power and knowledge; he wiſhed for the ſtrength of that bull, and the ſwiftneſs of yonder horſe; for wings that he might fly up and ſee what the ſky, and the ſtars, and the riſing moon were made of. To reform the inordinacy of his deſires, his uncle, whom he met by chance, diſguiſed in the figure of an old man with a beard, told him the following ſtory of the *Three Silver Trouts*.

My Harry, on the other ſide of yonder hill there runs a mighty clear river, and in that river on a time there lived three ſilver trouts, the prettieſt little fiſhes that any one ever ſaw. Now God took a great liking and love to theſe pretty ſilver trouts, and he let them want for nothing that ſuch little fiſhes could have occaſion for. But two of them grew ſad and diſcontented; and the one wiſhed for this thing, and the other wiſhed for that thing, and neither of them could take pleaſure in any thing that they had, becauſe they were

were always longing for ſomething that they had not.

Now Harry you muſt know that all this was very naughty in theſe two little trouts; for God had been exceedingly kind to them; he had given them every thing that was fitteſt for them, and he never grudged them any thing that was for their good; but, inſtead of thanking him for all his care and his kindneſs, they blamed him in their own minds for refuſing them any thing that their ſilly fancies were ſet upon. In ſhort, there was no end of their wiſhing, and longing, and quarrelling, in their hearts, for this thing and t'other.

At laſt, God was ſo provoked, that he reſolved to puniſh their naughtineſs by granting their deſires, and to make the folly of theſe two little ſtubborn trouts an example to all the fooliſh fiſh in the whole world.

For this purpoſe, he called out to the three little ſilver trouts, and told them, they ſhould have whatever they wiſhed for.

Now the eldeſt of theſe trouts was a very proud little fiſh, and wanted, forſooth, to be ſet up above all other little fiſhes. May it pleaſe you, ſays he, I muſt be free to tell you that I do not, at all, like the way in which you have placed me. Here you have put me into a poor, narrow, and troubleſome river, where I am ſtraitened on the right ſide and on the left ſide, and can neither get down into the ground, nor up into the air, nor go where, nor do any thing that I have a mind to.

I am not ſo blind, for all that, but I can ſee well enough how mighty kind and bountiful you can be to others. There are your favourite little birds, who fly this way and that way, and mount up to the very heavens, and do whatever they pleaſe, and have every thing at command, becauſe you have given them wings. Give me ſuch wings alſo as you have given to them, and then I will have ſomething for which I ought to thank you.

No ſooner aſk than have. He felt the wings he wiſhed for growing from either ſide, and, in a minute, he ſpread them abroad, and roſe out of the water. At firſt he felt a wonderful pleaſure in finding himſelf able to fly. He mounted high into the air, above the very clouds, and he looked down with ſcorn on all the fiſhes in the world.

He now reſolved to travel, and to take his diverſion far and wide. He flew over rivers and meadows, and woods and mountains, till, growing faint with hunger and thirſt, his wings began to fail him, and he thought it beſt to come down to get ſome refreſhment.

The little fool did not conſider that he was now in a ſtrange country, and many a mile from the ſweet river where he was born and bred, and had received all his nouriſhment. So, when he came down, he happened to alight among dry ſands, and rocks, where there was not a bit to eat, nor a drop of water to drink; and ſo there he lay faint and tired, and unable to riſe, gaſping and flutter-

ing,

ing, and beating himſelf againſt the ſtones, till at length he died in great pain and miſery.

Now the ſecond ſilver trout, though he was not ſo high-minded as the firſt little proud trout, yet he did not want for conceit enough; and he was moreover a narrow-hearted and very ſelfiſh little trout; and provided he himſelf was ſnug and ſafe, he did not care what became of all the fiſhes in the world. So he ſays to God:

May it pleaſe you, I don't wiſh, not I, for wings to fly out of the water, and to ramble into ſtrange places, where I don't know what may become of me. I lived contented and happy enough till the other day, when, as I got under a cool bank from the heat of the ſun, I ſaw a great rope coming down into the water, and it faſtened itſelf, I don't know how, about he gills of a little fiſh that was baſking beſide me, and he was lifted out of the water ſtruggling and working in great pain, till he was carried, I know not where, quite out of my ſight: So, I thought in my own mind, that this evil, ſome time or other, may happen to myſelf, and my heart trembled within me, and I have been very ſad and diſcontented ever ſince. Now, all I deſire of you is, that you would tell me the meaning of this, and all the other dangers to which you have ſubjected us poor little mortal fiſhes; for then I ſhall have ſenſe enough to take care of my own ſafety, and I am very well able to provide for my own living, I warrant you.

No

No ſooner ſaid than done. God immediately opened his underſtanding, and he knew the nature and meaning of ſnares, nets, hooks, and lines, and of all the dangers to which ſuch little trouts could be liable.

At firſt he greatly rejoiced in this his knowledge; and he ſaid to himſelf, Now ſurely I ſhall be the happieſt of all fiſhes; for, as I underſtand and am forewarned of every miſchief that can come near me, I'm ſure I love myſelf too well not to keep out of harm's way.

From this time forward he took care not to go into any deep holes, for fear that a pike, or ſome other huge fiſh, might be there, who would make nothing of ſwallowing him up at one gulp. He alſo kept away from the ſhallow places, eſpecially in hot weather, leſt the ſun ſhould dry them up, and not leave him water enough to ſwim in. When he ſaw the ſhadow of a cloud coming and moving upon the river, aha! ſaid he to himſelf, here are the fiſhermen with their nets, and immediately he got on one ſide and ſkulked under the banks, where he kept trembling in his ſkin till the cloud was paſt. Again, when he ſaw a fly ſkimming on the water, or a worm coming down the ſtream, he did not dare to bite, however hungry he might be; No, no, ſaid he to them, my honeſt friends, I am not ſuch a fool as that comes to neither; go your ways and tempt thoſe who know no better, who are not aware that you may ſerve as baits to ſome treacherous hook, that lies hid for the de-

deſtruction of thoſe ignorant and ſilly trouts that are not on their guard.

Thus this over-careful trout kept himſelf in continual frights and alarms, and could neither eat nor drink, nor ſleep in peace, leſt ſome miſchief ſhould be at hand, or that he might be taken napping. He daily grew poorer and poorer, and ſadder and ſadder, for he pined away with hunger, and ſighed himſelf to ſkin and bone, till, waſted almoſt to nothing with care and melancholy, he at laſt died, for fear of dying, the moſt miſerable of all deaths.

Now when God came to the youngeſt ſilver trout, and aſked him what he wiſhed for. Alas, (ſaid this darling little trout) you know, may it pleaſe you, that I am but a very fooliſh and good for-nothing little fiſh; and I don't know, not I, what is good for me, or what is bad for me; and I wonder how I came to be worth bringing into the world, or what you could ſee in me to take any thought about me. But if I muſt wiſh for ſomething, it is that you would do with me whatſoever you think beſt, and that I ſhould be pleaſed to live or die, even juſt as you would have me.

Now, as ſoon as this precious trout made this prayer in his good and his humble little heart, God took ſuch a liking and a love to him, as the like was never known. And God found it in his own heart that he could not but take great care of this ſweet little trout, who

who had truſted himſelf ſo wholly to his love and good pleaſure: and God went whereſoever he went, and was always with him and about him, and was to him as a father, and friend, and companion; and he put contentment into his mind, and joy into his heart; and ſo this little trout ſlept always in peace, and waked in gladneſs, and whether he was full or hungry, or whatever happened to him, he was ſtill pleaſed and thankful, and he was the happieſt of all fiſhes that ever ſwam in any water.

Harry's Compaſſion for a Beggar Boy.

Some time after Harry being called home to his papa's, one day met a little beggar-boy at the hall door, half naked, and whinging, and ſhivering with cold: his heart was inſtantly touched with his wonted compaſſion; and, taking him by the hand, What is your name, my poor little boy, ſays Harry? Neddy, Sir, ſays the child. And where's your daddy and mammy? O Sir, anſwered Ned, I have no daddy or mammy in the world wide. Don't cry, don't cry, ſays Harry, I have ſeveral daddies and mammies, and I'll give you one or two of 'em. But, where did you leave your cloaths, Neddy? I have not any, Sir, replied the child, in a piteous accent. Well, well, it don't matter, Neddy, for I have more cloaths too, ſays Harry: ſo taking him again by the hand, he led him up

to

to his apartment, without being perceived of any; and, helping him to ſtrip, he ran to his cloſet for the ſhirt which he had laſt thrown off, and put it on the new comer with equal haſte and delight. He next ran for the entire ſuit that his bearded dada * had given him, and, having helped and ſhewn him how to put on the breeches, he drew on the ſtockings and ſhoes with his own hands. To theſe ſucceeded the coat and waiſtcoat; and Ned was now full as well rigged as his benefactor.

Never had our hero enjoyed himſelf ſo highly as while he was thus employed. When he had finiſhed his operations, he chuckled and ſmiled, turned Ned round and round, walked here and there about him, and was as proud of him, as if he had been wholly of his own making.

He now, again, became thoughtful, forecaſting in his mind the particulars that might farther be requiſite for the accommodation of his gueſt; for he was grown too fond of him to think of parting ſuddenly. He then recollected an adjoining lumber-room, and taking Ned with him, they found a little old matraſs, which, with united ſtrength, they dragged forth and lodged in a convenient corner of the cloſet. To this they added a pair of old blankets, and Harry having ſpread them for Ned's repoſe, in the beſt manner he was able, aſked his dependant if he was hungry.

Yes,

* His uncle in the diſguiſe of a man with a long beard,

Yes, very, very hungry indeed, Sir, cried Ned. No ſooner ſaid than Harry flew down to the kitchen, and, looking about, and ſpying a large porringer of milk and a luncheon of bread, that one of the ſervants had provided for a young favourite of their own, he ſeized upon them like a hawk, and haſtening again to his chamber, delivered them to Neddy, who already had half devoured them with his eyes. Ned inſtantly fell to with the rapture of a cormorant, or any rapture that can be ſuppoſed leſs than that of his friend Harry, who ſtood over him with the feelings of a parent turtle, that feeds his young with the meat derived from his own bowels.

For a few days Harry kept his dependant ſhut up in his chamber, or cloſet, without the privity of any of the family, except nurſe, to whom he had revealed the affair under the ſeal of the ſtricteſt ſecrecy.

But on a croſs day, Suſy the houſe maid, having entered with a new broom into our hero's apartment, perceived, in a corner, the tatter'd depoſite of Ned's original robings, and lifting them, at a cautious diſtance, with a finger and thumb, ſhe perceived, as many other philoſophers alſo have done, that there is no part of this globe which is not peopled with nations of animals, if man had but attention, and optics duly accommodated to the viſion. She dropt the living garment, as though ſhe had taken up a burning horſe ſhoe; and was inſtantly peopled by her pro-

lific imagination with tribes of the ſame ſpecies from head to foot.

In this diſguſt, Suſy happened unfortunately to ſtep into the cloſet, and ſpied Ned in a dark corner, where he had ſquatted and drawn himſelf up to the ſize of a hedge hog. She immediately flew at him like one of the Eumenides, and dragged him forth to the light, as Hercules is ſaid to have hauled Caucus from his den. She queſtioned him with a voice of implacable authority, and Ned, with humble and ingenuous tears, confeſſed the whole adventure. But Suſy, no way melted, exclaimed, What, Sirrah, have you, and your maſter Harry, a mind to breed an affection in the houſe? I will remit of no ſuch doirgs, for I have an utter converſion to beggar brats and vermil. She then commanded him to bundle up his old rags, and driving him down ſtairs before her, ſhe diſmiſſed him from the hall door with a pair of ſmart boxes on each ſide of his head, and ordered him never more to defend her ſight.

Poor Ned went weeping and wailing from the door, when who ſhould he ſee, at about fifty paces diſtant, but his beloved patron Harry, who had been cutting a ſwitch from the next hedge. To him he ran with precipitation. Harry, touched with a compaſſion not free from reſentment, to ſee his favourite in tears, demanded the cauſe of his apparent diſtreſs, which Ned truly related. Our hero thereupon became thoughtful and moody;

and judging that Sufy had not acted thus without authority, he conceived a general diſguſt at a family who had treated him ſo injuriouſly in the perſon of his Neddy; but, comforting his dependent the beſt he could, Come Neddy, ſays he, don't cry my man; I will bring you, that I will, to my own dear dada, who will welcome and love you for my ſake. Then making his way through a ſmall breach in the neighbouring hedge, he ordered Ned to follow him, and flew acroſs the field like a bird of paſſage, in a direct line to his patron's, who received him with rapture for Harry's ſake, and Ned became ever after his faithful friend and grateful companion.

Harry coming one day to his bearded dada in a fine dreſs, and trimmed like a butterfly, he told him the following ſtory:

There was, once upon a time, a very good and a very clever boy called Hercules. As he grew up, beſides his prayers and his book, he was taught to run and leap, to ride, wreſtle, and cudgel; and though he was able to beat all the boys in the pariſh, he never uſed to hurt or quarrel with any of them. He did not matter cold, nor hunger, nor what he eat, nor what he drank; nor how, nor where he lay; and he went always dreſſed in the ſkin of wild beaſts, that could bear all winds and weathers, and that he could put on or off at pleaſure, for he knew that his dreſs was no part of himſelf, and could neither add to him, nor take away any thing from him.

When

When this brave boy came to man's eſtate, he went about the world, doing good in all places; helping the weak, and feeding the hungry, and cloathing the naked, and comforting thoſe that cried, and beating all thoſe that did hurt or wrong to others; and all good people loved him with their whole heart, and all naughty people feared him terribly.

But, O ſad and diſmal! a lady, whom he had ſaved from great hurt and ſhame, made him a preſent of a new coat, which was called a ſhirt in thoſe days, as they wore it next the ſkin. And now, my Harry, take notice. The lady had covered his coat all over with laces, and with rufflings, and with beads of glaſs, and ſuch other fooleries; ſo that poor Hercules looked juſt as fine as you do now. And he turned him to this ſide, and turned him to that ſide, and began to think more and better of himſelf, becauſe he had got this fool's coat upon him. The poiſon of it entered into his body and into his mind, and brought weakneſs and diſtempers upon the one and the other. And he grew ſo fond of it, that he could not bear to have it put off. For he thought that to part with it would be to part with his fleſh from his bones. Neither would he venture out in the rain any more, nor box nor wreſtle with any body, for fear of ſpoiling his fine coat. So that in time, he loſt the love and the praiſes of every body; and all people ſcorned him, and pointed at him for a fool and coxcomb, as he went by.

The STORY *of* ELIZA *and* EUBULUS.

A Widow lady in England was left by her huſband's death in moderate circumſtances, with the care of a ſon and a daughter, both under age. To give her children a good education was her chief buſineſs and delight. In every other reſpect ſhe was thrifty, but in this very liberal, eſteeming a good education the beſt patrimony. She herſelf taught her children to read and write; and her daughter to uſe her needle. She early inſtilled into their tender minds the principles of virtue, by drawing before them lively characters, and reciting remarkable engaging ſtories.

When they were grown up, ſhe put her daughter Eliza to one of the genteeleſt boarding ſchools, and ſent her ſon Eubulus to one of the univerſities.

Eubulus, with a fine genius and unwearied application, made great progreſs in his ſtudies, and

and by an uncommon ſweetneſs of temper gained the eſteem of all who knew him. Among others, he contracted a particular intimacy with a young gentleman of a large fortune, who choſe him for his companion in his travels.

Having obtained the conſent of his mother and ſiſter, he took his leave of them, and ſoon after with his friend, whoſe name was Agathias, went abroad.

In their progreſs through Italy, their curioſity led them to Venice in the time of the Carnival. One evening as Eubulus was going home, he ſaw two fellows attacking a ſingle gentleman, who made a ſtout reſiſtance, but was reduced to the laſt extremity. Eubulus drew his ſword in defence of the gentleman, and obliged the villains to retire, after they were deeply wounded. He led the gentleman to his own lodgings, and ſent for a ſurgeon to dreſs his wounds; but how ſurprized was he to find he had reſcued his friend Agathias from ſuch imminent danger,--and how overjoyed was Agathias, that his friend and deliverer were one and the ſame perſon. The wounds were found not mortal, ſo that in a few weeks Agathias recovered.

While they continued at Venice, a letter came by way of Genoa to Eubulus, to this effect.

My dear brother,

WHAT ſhall I tell you?——how will you be able to bear the news of the death of our

much honoured and deareſt mother? But the other night ſhe called me to her bed-ſide, and taking me by the hand, ſhe ſaid, "My "dear child, I am juſt going to leave you; "a few hours will bear me to the world of "ſpirits.—I chearfully reſign my dear charge, "you and your brother, if he is yet alive, to "the care of a good God, who will always "befriend the virtuous. When you have an "opportunity of writing to or ſeeing your "brother, tell him I died with him on my "heart,—left him a mother's bleſſing, and "had no higher wiſh on earth than to hear "that he was ſtill wiſe and good. Farewell, "my deareſt child! When you drop a tear "to the memory of a loving mother, be ex-"cited to imitate whatever you think good "and commendable in her conduct; Oh fare-"well!" At theſe words, with a ſmile, ſhe reſigned her ſoul into her maker's hands. O my dear brother! grief overwhelms me. I can add no more, but that I long exceedingly to ſee you; that cordial can only alleviate the heavy loſs of your affectionate ſiſter,

ELIZA.

This mournful news cut Eubulus to the heart; he grew impatient to return home, hoping his preſence might help to lighten his ſiſter's grief. Agathias perceiving his friend's uneaſineſs, inclined to indulge him, by haſtning their return.

Mean while, Eliza, after her mother's death, had retired from the world to a ſmall country ſeat,

ſeat, bordering upon a little wood. Her time was generally filled up with family affairs, management of her eſtate, reading, viſiting the ſick, and the company of a few choſen friends. But this calm retirement was ſoon interrupted, and her virtues were put to a ſevere trial.

One evening when ſhe was at her uſual walk, a gentleman named Lothario, getting near the place, caſt himſelf on the ground from his horſe, as if he had been ſeized with a ſudden illneſs. Eliza hearing the groans of a perſon in diſtreſs, ran to the place where he lay on the ground—and finding him to appearance in great agonies, haſted home for her ſervants, who carried him to her houſe, and laid him in an outer apartment. When he pretended to have recovered himſelf, he thanked her moſt kindly for her hoſpitality, and told her he hoped he would be well with a night's reſt. From a concern for his illneſs ſhe ſat by him for ſome time;—but ſhe had not been long in his company till he began to utter unbecoming diſcourſe, and talk in a ſtrain too ſhocking for her modeſty.

Her noble paſſions were inſtantly raiſed, and with eyes, flaſhing indignation, ſhe ſaid to him:

"Preſumptuous man! do you thus return, "thus abuſe ſuch an act of kindneſs! I "thought my own houſe would have been "ſufficient protection for me againſt all inde-"cency, eſpecially from you;—but ſince it is "not, you muſt be gone immediately."

With

With theſe words ſhe left the room with an emotion ſhe could not conceal, and ordered her ſervants to go and diſmiſs him that moment.

This diſappointment only made Lothario fall on more violent methods to accompliſh his villainous deſigns. He lay in ambuſh a whole day in the wood near her houſe, till Eliza happening to go abroad as uſual, was interrupted by him and his ſervants, and carried off in ſpite of all her cries and ſtruggles. He ſtopt not till he brought her to a private ſeat of his own, where he ſometimes retired to avoid company. How deeply afflicted was poor Eliza when ſhe found herſelf in the hands of the wicked Lothario! However, ſuppreſſing all bitter exclamations, which ſhe ſaw would ſerve no end, ſhe firmly truſted that God would preſerve her innocence, and ſend her ſpeedy relief. Lothario thought to win her with gentle uſage and alluring conduct. He told her ſhe might uſe her freedom in his houſe, for every thing in it was at her command.

She made no reply, but with her eyes darted the utmoſt contempt on him and his propoſals.

He allowed her the liberty of walking or riding abroad, but never without ſervants attending her. In ſhort, it would be tedious to relate the methods he tried, during the courſe of ſome months, to gain her over to his baſe deſires. But all was in vain: inſtead of giving

ear

ear to him, ſhe was always plotting her own eſcape, which ſhe effected thus. One morning when Lothario was from home, ſhe got up ſooner than uſual, and having ſtole the key of the garden, ſhe got into it unperceived by any body.

After croſſing the garden, ſhe leapt from the wall, and with difficulty ſcrambled up the ſide of the outer ditch; paſt over ſeveral fields, forcing her way through the hedges,—till ſhe thought herſelf out of danger, and then ſat down quite tired with fatigue and want of reſt. She now began to think over the dangers ſhe had run through, the inſults ſhe had borne, and what might yet befal her. All theſe things came crouding into her thoughts, and filled her with great anxieties. But at length looking up to heaven for relief, ſhe committed herſelf and the ſucceſs of her eſcape to providence, and ſunk into ſleep on the green turf.

A gentleman, who had been that morning a hunting, chanced to come to the place where ſhe lay; he was ſtruck with her amiableneſs, but was ſurprized to ſee a lady faſt aſleep, looſely dreſſed, her face and arms ſcratched, and the blood drawn in many places. But how much more was Eliza ſurprized, when ſhe opened her eyes upon a gentleman in a hunting dreſs, gazing at her with his horſe in his hand.

She ſtarted up, and ſeeing it in vain to fly from him, ſhe accoſted him thus:

"I

" I doubt not, Sir, you will think it ſtrange " to find a woman in this place in ſuch a con- " dition: but I beſeech you ſuſpend your " wonder, till I have an opportunity of in- " forming you of the extraordinary occaſion. " In the mean time, as you appear to be a " Gentleman, I truſt you have the honour of " one. I put myſelf under your protection, " conduct me, I beg you, to ſome place of " ſafety."

The Gentleman moſt readily accepted the agreeable taſk, and his ſervants coming up, he cauſed one of them to ſet the lady on horſeback; and he conducted her himſelf to his mother's houſe, which was only a few miles off. Having told his mother the ſtory, he committed Eliza to her care, and went home full of the image of his lovely ſtranger. Next morning he returned, impatient to ſee her, to enquire after her health, and to learn her misfortunes. After compliments had paſſed, he begged a recital of them. You have a right, Sir, anſwered Eliza, to my ſtory, to remove any ſuſpicions which my being found in ſuch unfavourable circumſtances may have raiſed. Upon hearing her ſolitary way of life, her treatment from Lothario, her family and relations, how was he delighted to find the young lady the ſiſter of his friend and fellow-traveller Eubulus; for Agathias and Eubulus had returned from their travels about a month before,—and Agathias was the Gentleman who found Eliza, and carried her

to

to his mother's houſe. Joy flowed ſo full upon him, that he was on the point of making a full diſcovery of her brother and himſelf; but he checked himſelf, and left her to find out Eubulus.

Eubulus, at his return, was quite caſt down to find the country houſe deſolate, and his dear ſiſter, the chief joy of his life, gone, and no body could tell whither.

Agathias had formerly told him of his finding a lady in great diſtreſs,—his relieving her, and the high eſteem he had of her. He now told him he would introduce him to her tomorrow, and he himſelf ſhould then judge, whether or not he eſteemed her above her merit.

Accordingly next day, he took Eubulus to his mother's, to ſee the unfortunate ſtranger. As Eubulus had been ſome years abroad, both his own and his ſiſter's looks were ſo altered that they knew not one another. In the afternoon Agathias's mother led them into the garden, where, after they were ſeated, ſhe begged Eliza to entertain them with her hiſtory.

Eliza run over her misfortunes, and repreſented the villainy of Lothario, in ſuch ſoft terms, as delighted Agathias and his mother, but Eubulus felt an uncommon tenderneſs mixed with admiration.

The tears ſtarted into his eyes: "Madam, "ſaid he, give me leave to aſk your name "and family." "Alas! Sir, replied ſhe, you "deſire

" deſire me to renew my grief: My parents " are both dead. I have only one dear bro- " ther, who is now abroad with a gentleman " of fortune and merit. I wiſh for nothing " to make me completely happy, but to ſee " him again. O if my dear Eubulus be ſtill a- " live, and it pleaſe kind heaven to reſtore " him to my ſight, how happy! happy!"— She could proceed no further; ſighs denied a paſſage to her words; and ſcarce got ſhe time to utter them, when Eubulus ſtarted from his ſeat, ran to her, claſped her in his arms, and burſt out, " Then, my deareſt " ſiſter, be as happy as your virtue and your " dear Eubulus can make you."——Words failed him to ſay more, a flood of tears ſucceeded the effect of unexpreſſible delight. Eliza quite overpowered, continued ſometime ſpeechleſs; at laſt ſhe got vent to her joy, and broke out, " O my deareſt Eubulus! my " brother, is it you?—Behold, continues ſhe, " pointing to Agathias, my deliverer and guar- " dian, to whom I owe my life, my honour, " and my all. You muſt acknowledge the " immenſe debt, I have a heart to feel, but " want words to expreſs it." " O Madam, " replied Agathias, he has fully repaid me " already; to his bravery I owe my life, which " heaven has graciouſly prolonged, that I " might be ſo happy as to contribute to your " ſafety; if you think there is any thing yet " owing me, it is yourſelf I would aſk as the " full reward."

Eliza, confounded at the generous propoſal, made

made no reply, but modeſtly bluſhed conſent. The match was ſhortly concluded with the entire approbation of all friends. Agathias was poſſeſſed in Eliza of one of the moſt virtuous of her ſex; and Eliza's tranſient ſufferings were rewarded in a happineſs that continues undecaying, in conjunction with one of the beſt of huſbands.

The ADVENTURES *of* MELESICHTHON.

MELESICHTHON, born at Megaris, of an illuſtrious family of Greece, made it the whole ſtudy of his youth to imitate in war the glorious actions of his anceſtors. He ſignalized his courage and his conduct in ſeveral expeditions; and as all his inclinations were to magnificence, he there made ſo ſumptuous a figure, that he quickly ruined himſelf. This obliged him to retire to a country houſe, upon the ſea ſide, where he lived ſoli-

tary and retired with his wife Proxinoe. She had wit, courage, and ſpirit; her beauty and birth had made her courted by ſeveral much richer than Meleſichthon; but him ſhe preferred to all others, ſolely for his merit. This couple, whoſe virtue and affection had made them naturally happy for the ſpace of many years, began now to render themſelves mutually unhappy, by the compaſſion they had for each other. Meleſichthon would have more eaſily ſupported his misfortunes could he have ſuffered them alone, and without a perſon who was ſo dear to him. Proxinoe was ſenſible that ſhe encreaſed the pains of Meleſichthon; their chief comfort was placed in their two children, who ſeemed to have been formed by the Graces; the ſon was named Melibeus, and the daughter Poemenis. Melibeus, though young, began already to diſcover ſtrength, ſkill, and courage at wreſtling, running, and the other exerciſes; he excelled all the children of the neighbourhood; he would ramble in the foreſts, nor were his arrows leſs ſure than thoſe of Apollo; he followed that god ſtill more in the ſciences and liberal arts, than in his bodily exerciſes. Meleſichthon, in his retirement, taught him every thing that can improve or adorn the mind, all that can make virtue beloved, or regulate the manners. Melibeus had a ſimple, mild, and ingenuous air, but noble, reſolute, and bold; as often as his father looked upon him, his eyes were filled with tears. Poemenis

was inſtructed by her mother in all the curious arts which Minerva hath given to men; ſhe added to the moſt exquiſite handy-work the charms of a voice, which ſhe joined to a lyre more engaging than that of Orpheus; to behold her, one would have thought it was young Diana, juſt come forth from her native floating iſland; her flaxen locks were negligently tied behind, ſome that had eſcaped flowing upon her neck in the wind; ſhe wore but a light garment, which a girdle tucked a little up, in order to be the fitter for action; without the foreign aid of ornament, ſhe eclipſed the moſt beautiful objects, and yet ſhe was not conſcious of her charms; ſhe had even never dreamed of admiring herſelf in a fountain; ſhe ſaw none but her own family, and thought of nothing but her work. But the father, overwhelmed with cares, and finding no remedy to his misfortunes, ſought nothing but ſolitude; his wife and children were his conſtant rack; he would often walk along the ſhore to the foot of a huge rock, full of wild caves; there would he deplore his misfortunes, and then often enter into a deep winding valley, which a thick wood hid from the rays of the ſun, in all his meridian power; he would ſit down on the flowery bank of a limpid ſtream, and meditate on a thouſand fatal things; refreſhing ſleep was far from his eyes, his words were always accompanied with groans, and old age came before the time to wither and wrinkle his face; he forgot even

all the wants of life, and ſunk beneath the weight of oppreſſing grief.

One day as he was ſitting in his ſhady valley, he fell aſleep through wearineſs and waſte of ſpirits; then he ſaw, in a dream, the goddeſs Ceres, crowned with gilded ears of corn, preſenting herſelf to him with a ſerene and majeſtic countenance. Why, ſaid ſhe to him, calling him by his name, do you ſuffer yourſelf to be depreſſed by the rigours of fortune? Alas! anſwered he, my friends have forſaken me, I have no longer any ſubſtance, nothing remains to me but creditors and law ſuits; my noble birth encreaſes my miſery; for I cannot bear the thoughts of working like a ſlave, in order to earn my living.

To this Ceres replied, Doth true nobility conſiſt in riches? Doth it not rather conſiſt in imitating the virtue of one's anceſtors? There are none noble but ſuch as are juſt. Be content with a ſmall income; let this ſmall income be acquired by your own hands; be a burden to nobody, and you will be the nobleſt of men. Mankind render themſelves miſerable by ſoftneſs and falſe glory. If neceſſaries are wanting to you, why would you be indebted for them to any other than yourſelf? Have you not courage to give them to yourſelf by a laborious life?

Saying this, ſhe forthwith preſented to him a golden plough-ſhare, with an horn of plenty. Then Bacchus appeared, crowned with ivy, and holding a thyrſes in his hand; he

was followed by Pan, playing upon the flute, after whom danced the Fauns and Satyrs. Pomona next appeared, loaded with fruits, and Flora adorned with the ſweeteſt and moſt fragrant flowers; all theſe rural deities caſt a favourable eye upon Meleſichthon.

As ſoon as he awoke, he comprehended the force and meaning of this divine dream; he felt himſelf charmed and encouraged with the labours of a rural life. He diſcloſed the dream to Proxinoe, who immediately gave into all his ſentiments. The very next day they diſmiſſed all their uſeleſs ſervants; no longer was to be ſeen about them any domeſtics but thoſe whoſe employment was neceſſary; they had now neither chariot nor charioteer. Proxinoe, with Poemenis, ſpun as they tended their ſheep; afterwards they made their webs and ſtuffs; then they cut and ſewed their own cloaths, and thoſe of the reſt of the family. Inſtead of ſilks, which they were wont to embroider with gold and ſilver, (as exquiſitely and artfully as Minerva herſelf) the ſpindle employed their fingers; they dreſſed, with their own hands, the herbs which they gathered in their garden, for the food of the whole family; the milk of their flock, which they went and milked themſelves, completed their plentiful chear; they bought nothing, all was prepared with propriety and eaſe; every thing was good, ſimple, natural, ſeaſoned by appetite, the inſeparable companion of ſobriety and labour.

In this rural life every thing about them was clean and neat; all the tapeſtry was ſold, but the walls of the houſe were white, nor was ought to be ſeen any where ſlovenly, or out of order; the furniture was never covered with duſt, and the beds, though coarſe, were decent; the very kitchen had a neatneſs, not to be found in great houſes, every thing there being finely diſpoſed and ſhining. To regale the family on holidays, Proxinoe would bake delicious cakes; ſhe had bees, whoſe honey was ſweeter than that which flowed from the trunks of hollow oaks, during the golden age. The cows came of themſelves, and offered rivulets of milk. This laborious woman had in her garden all the plants uſeful for the food of man, in each ſeaſon, and was always the firſt to have the fruits and herbs in their reſpective times; ſhe had alſo ſeveral ſorts of flowers, whereof ſhe ſold a part, after having employed the reſt in the adorning of her houſe. The daughter aſſiſted the mother, and taſted no other pleaſure than that of ſinging while ſhe worked, or tending her flocks in the paſtures; no other flock equalled hers, nor contagion, nor wolves durſt approach it. While their fair ſhepherdeſs ſung, the tender lambkins danced upon the graſs, and all the neighbouring echoes ſeemed to take pleaſure in the repetition of her ſongs.

Meleſichthon manured himſelf his field, himſelf drove his plough, himſelf ſowed and reaped; he found the toils of agriculture leſs

fatiguing

fatiguing, more innocent, and more profitable than thoſe of war. Scarce had he mowed the tender graſs of his meadows, when he haſted to carry off the gifts of Ceres, which paid him an hundred fold his ſeed. Quickly Bacchus diſtilled for him a nectar worthy of the table of the gods; Minerva gave him alſo the fruit of her tree, ſo uſeful to man. Winter was the ſeaſon in which they all repoſed, wherein the whole family aſſembled, taſted an innocent joy, and thanked the gods for being undeceived in the falſe notions of glory. They eat no meat but in their ſacrifices, and their flocks were deſtined ſolely for the altars.

Melibeus diſcovered ſcarce any of the paſſions of youth; he tended the large cattle, felled great oaks in the foreſts, dug little canals to water the meadows, and was indefatigable in eaſing his father; his pleaſures, when there was no work to do, were hunting, running with young perſons of his own age, and reading, of which his father had given him a taſte.

In a very little time Meleſichthon, by accuſtoming himſelf to this plain life, ſaw himſelf richer than he had been before; he had nothing indeed at home but the neceſſaries of life, but he had them all in abundance; he kept little or no company, but with his own family; they all loved one another, and rendered themſelves mutually happy; they lived far from the palaces of kings, and from the

pleaſures

pleaſures that are bought ſo dear; theirs were ſweet, innocent, ſimple, eaſy to be found, and without any dangerous conſequences. Thus were Melibeus and Poemenis bred up in the taſte of rural toils; they were no longer mindful of their birth, but only as it ſerved to encreaſe their courage in ſupporting poverty. Plenty returning to that houſe, brought back no pride with it; the whole family were ſtill ſimple and laborious. When every body would be ſaying to Meleſichthon, Riches flow again upon you, it is time to reaſſume your ancient ſplendor, he would make this anſwer, Which would you have me attach myſelf to, the pageantry which was my undoing, or to a ſimple and laborious life, which hath rendered me rich and happy? At length, finding himſelf one day in the ſame gloomy wood where Ceres had inſtructed him by ſo uſeful a dream, he laid himſelf down upon the graſs with as much joy as he had anguiſh the time before. He fell aſleep, and the goddeſs appearing to him, as in his former dream, thus ſaid to him: True nobility conſiſts in receiving nothing from any other perſon, and in doing all the good we can to others. Be beholden, therefore, for your livelihood to the fruitful womb of the earth, and your own labour; and take good heed, that by your ſoftneſſes, or through a falſe glory, you never quit the only natural and inexhauſtible ſource of riches and happineſs.

The STORY *of* ALMORAN *and* HAMET.

SOLYMAN, the mighty and the wife King of Perſia, had two ſons, Almoran and Hamet, and they were twins. Almoran was the firſt-born, but Solyman divided his affection equally between them. There was a great diſſimilarity in their diſpoſitions, habits, and characters; Almoran was haughty, vain, voluptuous; Hamet was gentle, courteous, and temperate: Almoran was volatile, impetuous, and iraſcible; Hamet was thoughtful, patient, and forbearing. Almoran's views were terminated by the preſent objects of pleaſure and honour; Hamet's pleaſures and pains, hopes and fears, were perpetually referred to the inviſible father of life, by ſentiments of gratitude, reſignation, complacency, or confidence; ſo that his devotion was not periodical, but conſtant; while Almoran regarded not God or devotion.

Such

Such were the ſons of Solyman; when their father died, Almoran, with a tumultuous and impetuous joy, received the tidings, and haſtened to accept the congratulations of the courtiers as abſolute ſovereign. Hamet, with modeſt grief, came amongſt the reſt, to pay his duty to his brother, who received him with coolneſs, and a diſtant pride. When Omar, an aged and faithful counſellor of Solyman, entered the court, and delivered the will of Solyman to the brothers, in which it was found that Solyman had bequeathed his kingdom between them. Almoran's diſappointment was great; Hamet's behaviour was modeſt and temperate. Their reflections in private were very different; and Omar offered a plan by which their joint government might beſt be carried into execution. Diſappointed in his hopes of undivided empire, and equally diſappointed through the ſyſtem of laws which Omar had introduced, Almoran reſolved, however, to reign abſolute in pleaſure: here too he found diſappointments; a repetition of the gayeſt delights deprived them of all their power to pleaſe. Hamet, on the contrary, did not ſeek pleaſure, but pleaſure ſought him; the pleaſures of ſenſe were heightened to him by thoſe of his mind, and the pleaſures of his mind by thoſe of ſenſe; he had indeed as yet no wife; (whilſt Almoran's ſeraglio was full of them) for as yet no woman had fixed his attention.

Among the embaſſadors who came to congratulate

gratulate the ſons of Solyman, there was a native of Circaſſia, named Abdallah. He had an only daughter, who attended him; her name was Almeida; ſhe was beautiful as the daughter of Paradiſe, and gentle as the breezes of the ſpring; her mind was without ſtain, and her manners were without art. A fire happened in the dead of night in the apartments of the Circaſſian embaſſador, which were near to the royal palace: Hamet was employed in his cloſet; he ſaw it, ordered the guard of the night to attend, and ran himſelf into the garden. Almeida appeared at the window; the flames and death were behind; Hamet, who had never ſeen her before, called out to her to throw herſelf into his arms. At the ſound of his voice ſhe ran back into the room, ſuch is the force of inviolate modeſty, though the ſmoke was then riſing in curling ſpires from the windows; ſhe was, however, ſoon driven back, and part of the floor at the ſame inſtant giving way, ſhe wrapt her veil around her, and leaped into the garden. Hamet caught her in his arms, ſhe fainted; he bore her to his apartment. She was covered only with the light and looſe robe in which ſhe ſlept, and her veil had dropped off by the way. The moment he entered his cloſet, the light diſcovered to him ſuch beauty as before he had never ſeen; ſhe now began to revive, and, before her ſenſes returned, ſhe preſſed the prince with an involuntary embrace, which he returned by ſtraining her cloſe to his breaſt,

in

in a tumult of delight, confuſion, and anxiety, which he could ſcarce ſuſtain. She recovered, and, with much tender aſſiduity, Hamet ſought out and reſtored her to her father, and having found that ſhe was diſengaged, commenced lover, and determined to marry her, but not before the year of mourning for his father Solyman was fulfilled. He kept the affair of his amour a profound ſecret from Almoran, fearing his impetuous temper; but it was diſcovered to him by ſome women of the ſeraglio. He reſolved to ſee Almeida; but not willing to do ſo without the conſent of his brother, he gained that conſent; was enamoured with Almeida, and reſolved to enjoy her; but, amidſt the conflict of his mind, he knew not what method to purſue. Thus was he not only without enjoyment, but without peace; by turns pining with diſcontent, and raving with indignation: his vices had extracted bitter from every ſweet; and, having exhauſted nature for delight in vain, he was repining at the bounds in which he was confined, and regretting the want of other powers, as the cauſe of his miſery.

In this ſituation, the year of mourning being compleated, he received a letter by the hands of Omar, from Hamet, informing him, that he propoſed to celebrate his marriage on the morrow with Almeida. He received the intelligence with the utmoſt perturbation; and when alone expreſſed all the tumult of his mind; when, behold, the palace ſhook,

a ruſhing like a blaſt in the deſart was heard, and a Being of more than human appearance ſtood before him. This was a genius of the middle region; who thus accoſted Almoran: "To thy own powers mine ſhall be ſuperadded; and if, as weak only, thou haſt been "wretched, henceforth thou ſhalt be happy. "Take no thought for to-morrow; to-morrow "my power ſhall be employed in thy behalf. "Be not affrighted at any prodigy, but put "thy confidence in me." Thus ſpeaking, he diſappeared.

Hamet was full of anxious expectations for the enjoyment approaching, when faithful Omar was introduced to him. He informed him of what he had diſcovered, the love of Almoran to Almeida, and alſo of the interpoſition of ſome ſuperior power in his cauſe; adviſed him of danger, and told him when ſolicitous what to do; "Thou muſt do what is "right. Let not thy foot be drawn by any al-"lurement, or driven by any terror, from the "path of virtue; while thou art there, thou art "in ſafety; and though the world ſhould unite "againſt thee, by the united world thou canſt "not be hurt." Fortified by Omar's advice, Hamet prepared for the ceremony: Almoran was ſeated on his throne, all the princes of the court were aſſembled; Hamet and Almeida came forward. The Mufti was advancing to hear and record their mutual vows; Almoran began to deſpair; and Hamet to hope that Omar's ſuſpicions were vain, when a ſtroke of thunder ſhook the palace,

a cloud roſe from the ground like thick ſmoke, between Hamet and Almeida, and a voice pronounced with a loud but hollow tone,

Fate has decreed to Almoran Almeida.

Upon which Almoran ſeized her, and after ſome tumult prevailed that Almeida ſhould be torn from Hamet, and borne to his apartment. Hamet and Omar convened the people, and headed the troops; the people were fataliſts, and little regarded their harangues: If it is decreed, ſaid they, that Almoran ſhall have Almeida, and reign alone, who can prevent it? and if it is not, who can bring it to paſs? But know you not, ſaid Omar, that, when the end is appointed, the means are appointed alſo. If it is decreed that one of you ſhall this night die by poiſon, is it not decreed alſo that he ſhall drink it? This was ineffectual. However, when he began to touch their paſſions by their intereſts, they heard him more favourably, and with one voice followed Hamet. Almoran was now in imminent danger of loſing all his power, and the more ſo, as Oſman and Caled, who had the command of the troops, were diſpoſed to be unfaithful. The Genius, however, appeared to him, and hope was again kindled in his boſom.

The brothers, with their adherents, met together; and the fate of their empire was to be decided; when the Genius again exerted his

his power in behalf of Almoran; the air grew dark, a flood of lightning deſcended from the ſky, and a peal of thunder was articulated into theſe words:

Divided ſway, the God who reigns alone
Abhors, and gives to Almoran the throne.

The multitude ſtood aghaſt at the prodigy; and, hiding their faces with their hands, every one departed in ſilence and confuſion, and Hamet and Omar were left alone. Omar was taken by ſome of the ſoldiers who had adhered to Almoran, but Hamet made his eſcape.

In the tumult of this ſeeming accompliſhment of his wiſhes, Almoran inveſted Oſmyn with the higheſt power; making Caled, his rival, next to him in power and honour. Almeida ſuffered all the grief and terror which a tender mind might be ſuppoſed to feel from ſuch diſtreſs. While ſhe was indulging her diſtreſs, Almoran came to her. When ſhe ſaw him, ſhe turned from him with a look of unutterable anguiſh; and, hiding her face in her veil, ſhe burſt into tears. The tyrant was moved; for unfeeling obduracy is the vice only of the old, whoſe ſenſibility has been worn out by the habitual perpetration of reiterated wrongs. Almoran uſed every argument, but in vain, to rival his brother, and to win her affection; when he urged the interpoſition of the divine power, "Urge no "more," ſaid ſhe, "as the decree of heaven, that "which is inconſiſtent with divine perfection.

" Can he, in whoſe hand my heart is, com-
" mand me to wed the man whom he has not
" enabled me to love? Can the pure, the juſt,
" the merciful, have ordained, that I ſhould
" ſuffer embraces which I loath, and violate
" vows which his laws permitted me to make?
" Can he have ordained a perfidious, a loveleſs,
" a joyleſs proſtitution!"--Enraged and diſap-
pointed, Almoran left her. In the anguiſh of diſappointment he ſaid, What have I gained by abſolute dominion! By the caprice of one woman I am robbed not only of enjoyment, but of peace; and condemned for ever to the torment of unſatisfied deſire!—The Genius once more appeared to him during this conflict of his mind, and as he had wiſhed for the form of Hamet, gave him a taliſman, by which he might aſſume the form of whomſoever he would; only on theſe terms, that, upon him whoſe appearance he aſſumed, *his* muſt be impreſt, till he ſhould reſtore his own. There was no doubt whoſe form Almoran would aſſume; yet he dreaded the conſequence, leſt Hamet ſhould avail himſelf of the form of Almoran. However, getting over theſe fears, and having given orders to Oſmyn to admit Hamet to Almeida in caſe he ſhould appear, he made uſe of the taliſman, and aſſumed the perſon of his brother.

Hamet, at this time, concealed himſelf near the city, and, as Almoran aſſumed his, he perceived himſelf impreſt with the form of

Al-

Almoran; upon which he haſtened towards the palace. Almoran, in the form of Hamet, going to the apartment of Almeida, was met by Oſmyn, who, miſtaking him for the real Hamet, expreſſes his utter abhorrence of Almoran, and his deſire to ſee Hamet on the throne. This is well worked up, and Almoran, who cannot diſcover his diſguiſe, is wracked with the moſt poignant diſtreſs. He comes, however, to Almeida, who receives him with joy; but as he preſſes haſtily for guilty pleaſures, ſhe rejects him, and vows to give her hand to Almoran, as ſhe had been ſo much miſtaken in Hamet. Thus diſappointed again, yet happy in the diſappointment, the imaginary Hamet retired, purpoſing to aſſume his own form. Soon after comes the real Hamet, in the form of Almoran: Almeida, who was deceived, perplexes Hamet much with an account of what paſſed. But, at length, Almoran having aſſumed his own form, Hamet ſtood before Almeida alſo in his own perſon. The doubts and difficulties were then all ſolved, and the virtuous lovers renew all the tenderneſs of their love. When behold Almoran enters the apartment, finds them together, boils with rage, and, deaf to the entreaties of Almeida, or the remonſtrances of Hamet, orders him to a dreadful dungeon, purpoſing immediately to take him off.

He was about to call the miniſters of death, when again the Genius appears, and tells him, that though he was free to afflict, he was

not to murder his brother. What then remains, ſaid Almoran, in the ſtores of thy wiſdom for me? till he dies, I am at once precluded from peace, and ſafety, and enjoyment. Look up, ſaid the Genius, for the iron hand of deſpair is not yet upon thee. Thou canſt be happy only by his death, and his life thou art forbidden to take away; yet mayeſt thou ſtill arm him againſt himſelf, and if he dies by his own hand thy wiſhes will be full. O name, ſaid Almoran, but the means, and it ſhall this moment be accompliſhed. Select, ſaid the Genius, ſome friend. Almoran's ſoul was ſhocked to think he had not one friend in whom he could confide; however, by the advice of the Genius, he determined to be his own meſſenger, and to viſit his brother in the form of Oſmyn, by the help of his taliſman. Accordingly he ſecures Oſmyn (upon whom his own form was to be impreſt) and goes to the priſon, of which Caled had the guard, the enemy and rival of Oſmyn in power; whom he had determined to take the firſt opportunity to deſtroy, not only as he had committed ſome treacherous ſecrets to him, but becauſe he hoped to ſucceed him in dignity, and alſo was confirmed in his reſolution by the enmity which inferior minds never fail to conceive againſt that merit which they cannot but envy, without ſpirit to emulate, and by which they feel themſelves diſgraced, without an effort to acquire equal honour.

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Almoran, in the form of Oſmyn, came to the priſon, ſhewed the royal ſignet, as a teſtimony that he came with the king's authority; and (while Caled behaved with the greateſt deference to him) was admitted to Hamet. He informed Hamet that cruel tortures were preparing for him, and that the only way for him to eſcape his brother's rage was to deſtroy himſelf, for which end he gave him a poinard, which he ſeized with gratitude and joy. Be quick, ſaid the diſguiſed Almoran. I will be quick, ſaid Hamet, and the ſigh that ſhall laſt linger upon my lips ſhall bleſs thee. They then bid each other farewel; and Almoran retired from the dungeon; and the door was again cloſed upon Hamet.

Caled, who waited at the door till the ſuppoſed Oſmyn ſhould return, preſented him with a beverage which he had prepared, of which he recounted the virtues; the unſuſpecting Almoran received it with pleaſure, drank it off eagerly, and returned to the palace. While Hamet, in the mean time, graſping the dagger, prepared for the blow; but his mind took the alarm:—"Let me reflect," ſaid he, "a moment; from what can I derive "hope in death? From that patient and pre- "ſerving virtue, and from that alone, by which "we fulfil the taſk which is aſſigned us upon "earth. Is it not our duty to ſuffer as well "as to act? If my own hand conſigns me to "the grave, what can it do but perpetuate that "miſery,

" miſery, which by diſobedience I would ſhun?
" What can it do but cut off my life and hope
" together?" With this reflection he threw the dagger from him; and ſtretching himſelf again upon the ground, reſigned himſelf to the diſpoſal of the Father of All, moſt merciful and almighty.

To Almoran, waiting impatiently for the news of Hamet's death, at length came Caled; but, inſtead of the intelligence which he wiſhed to receive, he only hears the dire information, that Oſmyn was a traitor, and that Caled gave him a bowl of poiſon as he came out of the priſon from Hamet. Upon which Almoran, ſtriking his hands together, looked upward in an agony of deſpair and horror, and ſtabbed Caled to the heart. In this dreadful moment the Genius once again appeared, and told him, that there was but one method to preſerve his life, by a charm, which Hamet muſt apply. Almoran, with a ſullen pride, conſents; the Genius vaniſhes. Almoran, by the help of his taliſman, determines to be preſent at the meeting between his brother and the Genius, whom he begins to ſuſpect, and accordingly aſſumes the form of a ſoldier. The Genius appears to Hamet in the priſon, and exhorts him to uſe a magic charm for his deliverance, againſt which Hamet's conſcience remonſtrating, the Genius leaves him, with the ſcroll, to determine for himſelf. Almoran aſſumes the form of Omar to perſuade him not to uſe it, as the Genius had

had declared it would be the means of his brother's deſtruction. Thus Almoran was deceived. His arguments prevailed. For in the language of Omar he ſaid, To preſerve thy life wilt thou deſtroy thy ſoul? O ſtay, ſaid Hamet, let me not be tried too far; let the ſtrength of him who is almighty be manifeſt in my weakneſs. Upon this he rejects the charm, and Almoran in an extaſy of joy received it. As this was only a trial of Hamet's virtue, ſhort was Almoran's triumph. The Genius once more appeared; "Almoran," ſaid he, "to the laſt ſounds which thou ſhalt hear "let thine ear be attentive! Of the ſpirits "which rejoice to fulfil the purpoſe of the al- "mighty, I am one. To Hamet and Almoran "I have been commiſſioned from above; I have "been appointed to perfect virtue by adverſity, "and in the folly of her own projects to en- "tangle vice. The charm which could be for- "med only by guilt, has power only to produce "miſery. Of every good which thou, Almo- "ran, wouldſt have ſecured by diſobedience, "the oppoſite evil is thy portion; and of every "evil which thou, Hamet, waſt willing by obe- "dience to incur, the oppoſite good is beſtowed "upon thee. To thee, Hamet, are now given "the throne of thy father, and Almeida. And "thou, Almoran, who, whilſt I ſpeak art in- "corporating with the earth, ſhalt remain "through all generations a memorial of the "truths which thy life has taught."

PALEMON *and* LAVINIA.

THE lovely young Lavinia once had friends;
And fortune ſmil'd, deceitful, on her birth.
For in her helpleſs years depriv'd of all,
Of every ſtay, ſave innocence and heaven,
She with her widow'd mother, feeble, old,
And poor, liv'd in a cot..ge, far retir'd
Among the windings of a wooden vale;
By ſolitude and deep ſurrounding ſhades,
But more by baſhful modeſty conceal'd.
Together thus they ſhunn'd the cruel ſcorn
Which virtue, ſunk to poverty, would meet
From giddy paſſion and low-minded pride:
Almoſt on nature's common bounty fed,
Like the gay birds that ſung them to repoſe,
Content, and careleſs of to-morrow's fare.
Her form was freſher than the morning roſe,
When the dew wets its leaves; unſtain'd and pure,
As is the lily, or the mountain ſnow.
The modeſt virtues mingled in her eyes,
Still on the ground dejected, darting all

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Their humid beams into the blooming flowers:
Or when the mournful tale her mother told,
Of what her faithleſs fortune promis'd once,
Thrill'd in her thought, they, like the dewy ſtar
Of evening, ſhone in tears. A native grace
Sat fair proportion'd on her poliſh'd limbs,
Veil'd in a ſimple robe, their beſt attire,
Beyond the pomp of dreſs: for lovelineſs
Needs not the foreign aid of ornament,
But is when unadorn'd adorn'd the moſt.
Thoughtleſs of beauty, ſhe was beauty's ſelf,
Recluſe amidſt the cloſe embowering woods.
As in the hollow breaſt of Apennine,
Beneath the ſhelter of encircling hills,
A myrtle riſes, far from human eye,
And breathes its balmy fragrance o'er the wild:
So flouriſh'd blooming, and unſeen by all,
The ſweet Lavinia: till, at length, compell'd
By ſtrong neceſſity's ſupreme command,
With ſmiling patience in her looks, ſhe went
To glean Palemon's field. The pride of ſwains
Palemon was, the generous, and the rich;
Who led the rural life in all its joy
And elegance, ſuch as Arcadian ſong
Tranſmit from ancient uncorrupted times;
When tyrant cuſtom had not ſhackled man,
But free to follow nature was the mode.
He then, his fancy with autumnal ſcenes
Amuſing, chanc'd beſide his reaper train
To walk, when poor Lavinia drew his eye:
Unconſcious of her power, and turning quick
With unaffected bluſhes from his gaze;
He ſaw her charming, but he ſaw not half

The charms her down-caſt modeſty conceal'd.
That very moment love and chaſte deſire
Sprung in his boſom, to himſelf unknown;
For ſtill the world prevail'd, and its dread laugh,
Which ſcarce the firm philoſopher can ſcorn,
Should his heart own a gleaner in the field,
And thus in ſecret to his ſoul he ſigh'd:

"What pity! that ſo delicate a form,
"By beauty kindled, where enlivening ſenſe
"And more than vulgar goodneſs ſeem to dwell,
"Should be devoted to the rude embrace
"Of ſome indecent clown! ſhe looks, methinks,
"Of old Acaſto's line; and to my mind
"Recalls that patron of my happy life,
"From whom my liberal fortune took its riſe;
"Now to the duſt gone down; his houſes, lands,
"And once fair-ſpreading family diſſolv'd.
"'Tis ſaid that in ſome lone obſcure retreat,
"Urg'd by remembrance ſad, and decent pride,
"Far from thoſe ſcenes which knew their better days,
"His aged widow and his daughter live,
"Whom yet my fruitleſs ſearch could never find.
"Romantic wiſh! would this the daughter were!"

When, ſtrict enquiring, from herſelf he found
She was the ſame, the daughter of his friend,
Of bountiful Acaſto; who can ſpeak
The mingled paſſions that ſurpriz'd his heart,
And through his nerves in ſhivering tranſport ran?
Then blaz'd his ſmother'd flame, avow'd, and bold;
And as he view'd her, ardent, o'er and o'er,
Love, gratitude, and pity wept at once.

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Confus'd, and frighten'd at his ſudden tears,
Her riſing beauties fluſh'd a higher bloom,
As thus Palemon, paſſionate, and juſt,
Pour'd out the pious rapture of his ſoul.

" And art thou then Acaſto's dear remains?
" She whom my reſtleſs gratitude has ſought
" So long in vain? O yes! the very ſame,
" The ſoften'd image of my noble friend,
" Alive, his every feature, every look,
" More elegantly touch'd. Sweeter than ſpring!
" Thou ſole ſurviving bloſſom from the root
" That nouriſh'd up my fortune! ſay, ah where,
" In what ſequeſter'd deſart, haſt thou drawn
" The kindeſt aſpect of delighted heaven?
" Into ſuch beauty ſpread, and blown ſo fair;
" The poverty's cold wind, and cruſhing rain,
" Beat keen, and heavy on thy tender years!
" O let me now, into a richer ſoil,
" Tranſplant thee ſafe! where vernal ſuns and ſhowers
" Diffuſe their warmeſt, largeſt influence;
" And of my garden be the pride, and joy!
" It ill befits thee, O it ill befits
" Acaſto's daughter, his whoſe open ſtores,
" Though vaſt, were little to his ampler heart,
" The father of a country, thus to pick
" The very refuſe of thoſe harveſt fields,
" Which from his bounteous friendſhip I enjoy.
" Then throw that ſhameful pittance from thy hand,
" But ill apply'd to ſuch a rugged taſk;
" The fields, the maſter, all, my fair, are thine;
" If to the various bleſſings which thy houſe
" Has on me laviſh'd, thou wilt add that bliſs,
" That deareſt bliſs, the power of bleſſing thee!"

Here ceas'd the youth: yet ſtill his ſpeaking eye
Expreſs'd the ſacred triumph of his ſoul,
With conſcious virtue, gratitude, and love,
Above the vulgar joy divinely rais'd.
Nor waited he reply. Won by the charm
Of goodneſs irreſiſtible, and all
In ſweet diſorder loſt, ſhe bluſh'd conſent.
The news immediate to her mother brought,
While, pierc'd with anxious thoughts, ſhe pin'd away
The lonely moments for Lavinia's fate;
Amaz'd, and ſcarce believing what ſhe heard,
Joy ſeiz'd her wither'd veins, and one bright gleam
Of ſetting life ſhone on her evening hours:
Nor leſs enraptur'd than the happy pair;
Who flouriſh'd long in tender bliſs, and rear'd
A numerous offspring, lovely like themſelves,
And good, the grace of all the country round.

The STORY *of* ABDALLAH.

ABDALLAH was a Perſian reſiding in London. He had an intimate friend of his

his own nation, named Selim, who alſo reſided there. Abdallah one day ſent to Selim to deſire he would come to him. When he came, he found Abdallah oppreſſed with the deepeſt ſorrow. Ah, Selim, ſaid Abdallah, I muſt leave thee; I muſt go and diſcharge my duty to the beſt of fathers: I muſt give my all for him to whom I owe it. At theſe words he put a letter into the hands of Selim, which he had juſt received the day before. Selim found by it that Abdallah's father, who was a merchant, in a voyage from Grand Cairo to Aleppo, was taken by a cruizer of the iſle of Malta, and being unable himſelf to pay his ranſom, had writ to his ſon to do it for him. "Thou knoweſt," ſaid Abdallah to Selim, "that I am not rich: to raiſe "the ſum demanded for my father's liberty, I "muſt ſell my effects, and leave myſelf without the means of ſubſiſtence, except what "my labour can procure me. But my own "diſtreſs is not what concerns me moſt: the "fear of poverty cannot fright me from my "duty; I only grieve for the fate of my poor "wife, whom the ruin of my fortune will "expoſe to indigence and ſhame. It is for "her ſake that I have ſent for you; and I "conjure you by our friendſhip, by the prophet and God whom we adore, not to refuſe "me the firſt favour I ever aſked." When he had ſaid this, he opened the door of another room, and diſcovered to the eyes of Selim a beautiful woman, in the Turkiſh habit, who,

with a modeſty peculiar to the eaſtern ladies, endeavoured to conceal herſelf from his regards. "Come hither, Zelis," ſaid Abdallah, "and ſee the man whom I have choſen "to protect you: ſee him who muſt ſhortly "be your huſband in the room of the unfor- "tunate Abdallah." Then turning to Selim, and weeping bitterly, "this," cried he, "O "Selim, is the grace for which I am a ſup- "pliant: permit me to give her to a man, "who I know will uſe her well; I am reſol- "ved to divorce her this very inſtant, accord- "ing to the power allowed by our law, if "you will conſent to take her for your wife: "nor could the Sophi himſelf make you a "preſent of greater value. If the charms of "her perſon are not ſufficient to recommend "her to you, know that her mind is ſtill "fairer and more accompliſhed. I brought "her with me into England three years ago, "in all which time ſhe has hardly ſtirred out "of my houſe, nor deſired any company but "mine. It is impoſſible to be happier with "a wife than I have been with her: nothing "ſhould ever have prevailed on me to part "with her, but the deſire to ſeparate her "from my misfortunes, and to procure her "a maintenance agreeable to her birth and "merit, which I am no longer able to pro- "vide for her myſelf."

He had ſcarce ended, when the lady tearing her hair, and beating the whiteſt breaſt that was ever beheld, implored him not to think of

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a ſeparation, more painful to her than any miſery that poverty could reduce her to.

After many paſſionate expreſſions of her love, ſhe declared, that ſhe would accompany him to Malta, and beg her bread with him afterwards, if it was neceſſary, rather than ſtay behind in the moſt affluent condition. But he poſitively refuſed to let her go, and inſiſted upon giving her to Selim, as the only expedient to make him eaſy. "To carry her "with me," ſaid he, "would be expoſing "her to ſuch dangers and wants, as I cannot "endure even to think of. But leſs can I "bear the thought of leaving her here, in a "nation of infidels, among women who have "given up modeſty, and men who profeſs to "make war upon it wherever it is to be "found. Your houſe is the only aſylum to "which her virtue can ſafely retire. As "your wife, ſhe will be protected from any "inſult, even in this land of licentiouſneſs." To theſe words of Abdallah, Zelis replied with many arguments, but with more tears. Selim continued ſome time a ſilent witneſs of this extraordinary diſpute; but, at laſt, ſeeing him determined to divorce her, he told Abdallah he would accept her as a treaſure committed to his hands, not for his own uſe, but to ſecure it for his friend: that ſhe ſhould remain with him under the character of his wife, but he would always be a ſtranger to her bed; and if at his return he found himſelf in circumſtances ſufficient to maintain her,

he would reſtore her back again untouched; or in caſe they ſhould mutually deſire it, carry her with him to his ſeraglio in the eaſt. They were both much comforted with this aſſurance; and Zelis conſented to ſtay with Selim, ſince Abdallah commanded it. The poor man embarked for Malta the following week, with his whole fortune on board for his father's ranſom, and left Selim ſo much touched with his filial piety, that he made an offer to pay part of it himſelf; but Abdallah told him, he had done enough for him in taking care of what was deareſt to him upon earth, and refuſed any ſuccour from him.

The virtuous Abdallah, after an abſence of fourteen months, returned ſafe to England; and, as you may imagine, was not long before he paid his friend Selim a viſit, who reſtored to him his lovely Zelis, the wife whom he had given him at his departure, and whom he had treated like a ſiſter. Nothing ever was ſo moving as the ſcene when Selim joined their hands again, after a ſeparation which they had feared would prove eternal.

This act of Humanity and juſtice gave Selim more pleaſure than he could have received from the poſſeſſion of the faireſt woman in the world: he made two people happy who deſerved it, and was ſecure of the affections of both to the laſt moment of their lives. When the tranſports of their joy were a little over,

over, Abdallah related to Selim and his lovely Zelis all that had happened to him ſince he left them, in the following manner.

" You know that I ſailed from England " with an intent to redeem my father from " captivity: as ſoon as I came to Malta, I " went and threw myſelf at the feet of the " grand maſter, beſeeching him to take the " ranſom I had brought, and ſet my father " free.

" He anſwered me, that the perſon for " whom I ſued was no longer in a condition " to be ranſomed, being condemned to die " the next day. I was ready to die myſelf at " this account; and deſiring to know his of- " fence, was informed, that being unable to " redeem himſelf, he was put to the oar like " a common ſlave, without any regard to his " innocence or age: that during an engage- " ment with a Turkiſh ſhip, he had per- " ſuaded the other ſlaves to quit their oars " and fight againſt the chriſtians; but that " being overpowered, he was brought to " Malta, and condemned to be broke upon " the wheel, as an example to the other cap- " tives in the gallies: that this dreadful ſen- " tence was to be executed upon him the " morning after my arrival, and no ranſom " could be accepted for his life. O heaven! " ſaid I, did I come ſo far to no other purpoſe " but to be witneſs of the death of my " wretched father, and a death ſo full of hor- " ror? Would the waves of the ſea had ſwal- " lowed me up before I reached this fatal and

" ac-

" accurſed ſhore! O Abderamen! O my father!
" what avails thee the piety of thy ſon? How
" ſhall I bear to take my leave of thee for ever,
" at our firſt meeting after an abſence which
" ſeemed ſo long? Can I ſtand by and give
" thee up to torments, when I flattered my-
" ſelf I arrived to bring thee liberty? Alas!
" my preſence will only aggravate thy ſuffer-
" ings, and make the bitterneſs of death more
" inſupportable.

" In this extremity I offered the grand
" maſter, not only to pay down the ranſom
" I had promiſed before, but to yield myſelf
" a voluntary ſlave, and ſerve in the gallies
" all my life, if Abderamen's might be ſpared.

" He ſeemed touched with my propoſal,
" and inclined to pity me; but was told by a
" jeſuit, who was his confeſſor, that an ex-
" ample of ſeverity was neceſſary; and that
" he ought to pardon my father on no terms
" but renouncing Mahometiſm, and being
" converted immediately to the church of
" Rome.

" No, cried I; if that is to be the price of a
" few unhappy years, it is better both of us
" ſhould periſh than accept them. But can
" you, ſaid I to the prieſt, who profeſs an ho-
" lineſs ſuperior to other men, can you ob-
" ſtruct the mercy of your prince, and com-
" pel him to deſtroy a wretched man, whoſe
" only crime was the natural love of liberty?
" Is this your way of making converts to
" your faith, by the terror of racks and wheels,
" inſtead of reaſon?

" My

" My reproaches ſignified nothing but to
" incenſe him, and I quitted the palace in de-
" ſpair. I was going to the priſon to ſee my
" father, for the firſt and laſt time, when a
" Turkiſh ſlave accoſted me, and bid me fol-
" low him. I refuſed to do it, but he aſſured
" me it was of moment to the life of Abdera-
" men. I followed him, and he led me a
" back way to a woman's apartment in the
" palace. I continued there till paſt mid-
" night without ſeeing any body, in agita-
" tions not to be conceived; at laſt there came
" to me a lady richly dreſſed in the habit
" of my own country. After looking atten-
" tively for ſome time, O Abdallah, ſaid ſhe,
" have you forgot Zoraide the ſiſter of Zelis?

" Theſe words ſoon brought her to my re-
" membrance, though I had not ſeen her for
" many years: I embraced her tenderly, and
" deſired to hear what fortune had carried
" her to Malta? You know, ſaid ſhe, that
" my family is of the iſland of Cyprus, and
" that I was married young to a rich mer-
" chant of Aleppo. I had by him two chil-
" dren, a ſon and a daughter; and lived very
" happily ſome years, till my huſband's buſi-
" neſs carrying him to Cyprus, I perſuaded
" him to let me go and make a viſit to my
" relations in that iſland. In our paſſage a
" violent ſtorm aroſe, which drove us weſt-
" ward beyond the iſle of Candia; and before
" we could put into any harbour, a Malteſe
" pirate attacked us, killed my huſband, and

" carried

" carried me to Malta. My beauty touched " the heart of the grand maſter, which is the " more ſurpriſing, as I took no pains to ſet " it off, thinking of nothing but the loſs I " had ſuſtained: he bought me of the knight " whoſe prize I was; and I thought it ſome " comfort in my captivity, that I was deli- " vered from the hands that had been ſtained " in my huſband's blood. The paſſion of my " new lord was ſo exceſſive, that he uſed me " more like a princeſs than a ſlave. He could " deny me nothing that I aſked him, and " was ſo liberal that he never approached me " without a preſent. You ſee the pomp and " magnificence in which I live; my wealth is " great, and my power in this place ſuperior " to any body's. Hear then, Abdallah, what " my friendſhip has done for you, and re- " member the obligation you have to me. I " have employed all my intereſt with my lo- " ver to ſave the life of Abderamen; he has " conſented to it, and moreover to ſet him " free upon paying the ranſom you propoſed. " But, in recompence for the aid which I " have given you, you muſt promiſe to aſſiſt " me in an affair that will, probably, be at- " tended with ſome danger. I aſſured her " there was nothing I would not riſk to do " the ſiſter of Zelis any ſervice.

" You ſhall know, ſaid ſhe, what it is I re- " quire of you, when the time comes to put " it in execution; till then remain at Malta, " and wait my orders.

" At

" At theſe words ſhe delivered to me a " pardon under the ſeal of the grand maſter, " and bid me carry it inſtantly to my father. " I was ſo tranſported, that I could not ſtay " to thank her: I ran, I flew to the priſon of " Abderamen, and ſhewing the order I brought " with me to his guards, was admitted to the " dungeon where he lay.

" The poor old man expecting nothing but " death, and believing I was the officer that " came to carry him to the place of execu- " tion, fainted away before I had time to " diſcover to him either my perſon or errand. " While he lay in that ſtate of inſenſibility, I " unbound his chains, and bore him into the " open air, where with a good deal of diffi- " culty he recovered. O my father! ſaid I to " him, (when I perceived that his ſenſes were " returned) do you not know your ſon Ab- " dallah, who is come hither to ſave your " life, who has obtained your pardon, and " redeemed you from captivity? The ſurprize " of joy that ſeized him in that inſtant at my " ſight and words, was too ſudden and violent " for his age and weakneſs to ſupport. He " ſtruggled ſome time to make anſwer, but " at laſt ſtraining me in his arms, and mut- " tering ſome half formed ſounds, he ſunk " down, and expired on my boſom.

" When I ſaw that he was dead, I loſt all " patience, and covering myſelf with duſt, be- " wailed my folly, in not telling him my " good tidings by degrees.

" By

" By this time it was broad day, and the " whole town being informed of my affliction, was gathered about me in great " crouds. The grand maſter himſelf, taking " pity on me, ſent to tell me, that he would " permit me to bear away my father's body to " Aleppo, and excuſe me the ranſom I had " offered, ſince death had delivered him without it. This indulgence comforted me a " little, and I would have embarked immediately for the Levant, if I had not been " ſtopped by my promiſe to Zoraide. Several days paſſed without my hearing any " news of her. I had already hired a ſmall " veſſel, and put on board the remains of " Abderamen, when, late one night, I was " waked out of my ſleep by Zoraide, in the " habit of a man, who told me, that ſhe was " come to claim my promiſe. I aſked what " ſhe required me to do? To carry me to A- " leppo, anſwered ſhe, that I may ſee my " dear children once again, and enrich them " with the treaſures which I have gained " from the bounty of my lover. Thoſe trea- " ſures to me are uſeleſs without them; in " the midſt of all my pomp and outward " pleaſure, I am perpetually pining for their " loſs; the mother's heart is unſatisfied with- " in; nor will it let me enjoy a moment's " peace, till I am reſtored to them in my hap- " py native land. As ſhe ſaid this, ſhe ſhewed " me ſome bags of gold, and a caſket filled " with jewels of great value. I muſt inſiſt,

" Ab-

" Abdallah," continued ſhe, " that you ſet ſail " this very night, and take me along with " you. The weather is tempeſtuous, but that " circumſtance will favour my eſcape; and I " had rather venture to periſh in the ſea, " than live any longer from my family.

" The ſenſe of the obligation I had to her " made me conſent to do what ſhe deſired, " how perilous ſoever it appeared to me. As " I had a permiſſion from the grand maſter to " go away as ſoon as I thought fit, I put to ſea " that night without any hinderance, and the " wind blowing hard off the ſhore, in a little " while we were out of ſight of Malta. The " water was ſo rough for two or three days, " that we thought it impoſſible our bark could " weather it out; but at length the ſtorm a- " bating, we purſued our voyage with a very " fair wind, and arrived ſafe in the port of " Scanderoon. Zoraide was tranſported with " the thoughts of being ſo near Aleppo and " her children; ſhe embraced me in the moſt " affectionate manner, and expreſſed a grati- " tude for the ſervice I had done her far be- " yond what it deſerved. But how great " was her diſappointment and affliction, when " we were told by the people of Scanderoon, " that the plague was at Aleppo, and had de- " ſtroyed a third part of the inhabitants.

" Ah, wretched Zoraide! cried ſhe, weep- " ing, where are all thy hopes in being bleſſed " with the ſight of thy two children? Per- " haps thoſe two children are no more, or, if

" they ſtill live, it is in hourly expectation of
" dying with the reſt of their fellow citizens.
" Perhaps at this moment they begin to
" ſicken, and want the care of their mother
" to attend upon them, when they are aban-
" doned by every other friend.

" Thus did ſhe torture herſelf with dread-
" ful apprehenſions, and often turned her eyes
" towards Aleppo, giving herſelf up to all
" the agonies of grief.

" I ſaid every thing I could think of to re-
" lieve her, but ſhe would not be comforted.

" The next morning the ſervants I had put
" about her came and told me that ſhe was
" not to be found. They alſo brought me a
" letter, which informed me, that not being
" able to endure the uncertainty ſhe was in
" about her children, ſhe had ſtolen away by
" night, and gone to Aleppo to ſhare their
" danger with them. That if ſhe and her fa-
" mily eſcaped the ſickneſs, I ſhould hear
" from her again; but if they died, ſhe was
" reſolved not to ſurvive them. She added,
" that ſhe had left me a box of diamonds
" worth two thouſand piſtoles, being a fourth
" part of the jewels which ſhe brought from
" Malta by my aſſiſtance.

" You may imagine how deeply I was af-
" fected at reading this letter. I reſolved to
" ſtay at Scanderoon till I had ſome news of
" her, notwithſtanding my paſſionate deſire to
" return to Zelis. I had waited five weeks
" with great impatience, when we received

" ac-

" accounts that the infection was ceaſed, and
" the commerce of Aleppo reſtored again. I
" immediately went to viſit my native town;
" but alas! I had little pleaſure in the ſight of
" it, after ſo diſmal a calamity. My firſt en-
" quiry was about Zoraide and her children.
" They carried me to her houſe, where I
" found her ſon, a youth of ſixteen. When
" I made myſelf known to him, he fell a
" weeping, and told me his mother and ſiſter
" were both dead. I very ſincerely joined
" with him in his grief, and offered to reſtore
" to him the jewels ſhe had given me. No,
" Abdallah, ſaid he, I am rich enough in
" what I inherit from my father and Zoraide.
" But theſe riches cannot comfort me for her
" death, nor any time wear out of my re-
" membrance the uncommon affection which
" occaſioned it. O Abdallah! what a mother
" have I loſt, and what a friend are you de-
" prived of! When ſhe came hither, continued
" he, from Scanderoon, my ſiſter and I be-
" lieved we had ſeen a ſpirit, but when we
" found it was really Zoraide, our hearts
" melted with tenderneſs and joy. That joy
" was ſoon over; for the third day after her
" arrival at Aleppo, I found myſelf ſeized
" with the diſtemper. She never quitted my
" bed ſide during my illneſs, and to the care
" ſhe took of me I owed my life: but it proved
" fatal to her and my poor ſiſter, who both
" caught the infection by nurſing me; and
" having weaker conſtitutions, were not able

" to ſtruggle with it ſo well. My ſiſter died
" firſt, and Zoraide quickly followed her:
" when ſhe perceived herſelf juſt expiring, ſhe
" called me to her, and bid me endeavour to
" find you out at Scanderoon, and let you
" know, that ſhe bequeathed to you the por-
" tion ſhe had intended for my ſiſter, amount-
" ing to five thouſand pieces of gold, as to
" the man in the world ſhe moſt eſteemed:
" ſhe added, that to you ſhe recommended
" me with her lateſt breath, imploring you to
" take care of me for her ſake, and the ſake
" of my ſiſter Zelis.

" The poor boy was not able to go on with
" his ſtory any farther. I accepted the lega-
" cy, and did my utmoſt to diſcharge wor-
" thily the truſt conferred upon me; but my
" firſt care was to bury Abderamen with all
" the pomp that our cuſtoms will admit. Af-
" ter ſometime ſpent in ſettling the affairs of
" my pupil, and my own, I took a paſſage on
" board an Engliſh ſhip, and arrived happily
" in London.

" I am now poſſeſſed of a fortune that is
" ſufficient to maintain Zelis in the manner I
" deſire, and have nothing more to aſk of hea-
" ven but an opportunity of repaying you, O
" Selim, the friendſhip and goodneſs you
" have ſhewn me."

The STORY *of* CARAZAN.

CARAZAN, the merchant of Bagdat, was eminent through all the eaſt for his avarice and his wealth: his origin is obſcure, as that of the ſpark which by the colliſion of ſteel and adamant is ſtruck out of darkneſs; and the patient labour of perſevering diligence alone had made him rich. It was remembered, that when he was indigent he was thought to be generous; and he was ſtill acknowledged to be inflexibly juſt. But whether in his dealings with men he diſcovered a perfidy which tempted him to put his truſt in gold, or whether in proportion as he accumulated wealth he diſcovered his own importance to increaſe, Carazan prized it more as he uſed it leſs; he gradually loſt the inclination to do good, as he acquired the power; and as the hand of time ſcattered ſnow upon his head, the freezing influence extended to his boſom.

But though the door of Carazan was never opened by hoſpitality, nor his hand by compaſſion, yet fear led him conſtantly to the moſque at the ſtated hours of prayer; he performed all the rites of devotion with the moſt ſcrupulous punctuality, and had thrice paid his vows at the temple of the prophet. That devotion which ariſes from the love of God, and neceſſarily includes the love of man, as it connects gratitude with beneficence, and exalts that which was moral to divine, confers new dignity upon goodneſs, and is the object not only of affection but reverence. On the contrary, the devotion of the ſelfiſh, whether it be thought to avert the puniſhment which every one wiſhes to be inflicted, or to inſure it by the complication of hypocriſy with guilt, never fails to excite indignation and abhorrence. Carazan, therefore, when he had locked his door, and turning round with a look of circumſpective ſuſpicion, proceeded to the moſque, was followed by every eye with ſilent malignity; the poor ſuſpended their ſupplications when he paſſed by; though he was known by every man, yet no man ſaluted him.

Such had long been the life of Carazan, and ſuch was the character which he had acquired, when notice was given by proclamation, that he was removed to a magnificent building in the center of the city, that his table ſhould be ſpread for the public, and that the ſtranger ſhould be welcome to his bed.

bed. The multitude ſoon ruſhed like a torrent to his door, where they beheld him diſtributing bread to the hungry, and apparel to the naked, his eye ſoftened with compaſſion, and his cheek glowed with delight. Every one gazed with aſtoniſhment at the prodigy; and the murmur of innumerable voices increaſing like the ſound of approaching thunder, Carazan beckoned with his hand; attention ſuſpended the tumult in a moment, and he thus gratified the curioſity which procured him audience.

" To him who touches the mountains and
' they ſmoke, the almighty and the moſt mer-
' ciful, be everlaſting honour! he hath or-
" dained ſleep to be the miniſter of inſtruction,
" and his viſions have reproved me in the
" night. As I was ſitting alone in my haram,
" with my lamp burning before me, compu-
" ting the product of my merchandize, and
" exulting in the increaſe of my wealth, I fell
" into a deep ſleep, and the hand of him who
" dwells in the third heaven was upon me.
" I beheld the angel of death coming forward
" like a whirlwind, and he ſmote me before
" I could deprecate the blow. At the ſame
" moment I felt myſelf lifted from the ground,
" and tranſported with aſtoniſhing rapidity
" through the regions of the air. The earth
" was contracted to an atom beneath; and
" the ſtars glowed round me with a luſtre that
" obſcured the ſun. The gate of Paradiſe was
" now in ſight; and I was intercepted by a

ſudden

" ſudden brightneſs which no human eye
" could behold: the irrevocable ſentence was
" now to be pronounced; my day of proba-
" tion was paſt; and from the evil of my
" life nothing could be taken away, nor could
" any thing be added to the good. When I
" reflected that my lot for eternity was caſt,
" which not all the powers of nature could
" reverſe, my confidence totally forſook me;
" and while I ſtood trembling and ſilent, co-
" vered with confuſion and chilled with hor-
" ror, I was thus addreſſed by the radiance
" that flamed before me.

" Carazan, thy worſhip has not been ac-
" cepted, becauſe it was not prompted by the
" love of God; neither can thy righteouſneſs
" be rewarded, becauſe it was not produced by
" the love of man: for thy own ſake only
" haſt thou rendered to every man his due,
" and thou haſt approached the almighty only
" for thyſelf. Thou haſt not looked up with
" gratitude, nor round thee with kindneſs.
" Around thee indeed thou haſt beheld vice
" and folly; but if vice and folly could juſti-
" fy thy parſimony, would they not condemn
" the bounty of heaven? if not upon the fool-
" iſh and the vicious, where ſhall the ſun dif-
" fuſe his light, or the clouds diſtil their dew?
" where ſhall the lips of the ſpring breathe fra-
" grance, or the hand of autumn diffuſe plenty?
" Remember, Carazan, that thou haſt ſhutcom-
" paſſion from thine heart, and graſped thy
" treaſures with a hand of iron: thou haſt
" lived

" lived for thyſelf; and, therefore, hence-
" forth for ever thou ſhalt ſubſiſt alone. From
" the light of heaven, and from the ſociety
" of beings, ſhalt thou be driven; ſolitude
" ſhall protract the lingering hours of eternity,
" and darkneſs aggravate the horrors of de-
" ſpair. At this moment I was driven by
" ſome ſecret and irreſiſtible power, through
" the glowing ſyſtem of creation, and paſſed
" innumerable worlds in a moment. As I
" approached the verge of nature I perceived
" the ſhadows of total and boundleſs vacuity
" deepen before me, a dreadful region of e-
" ternal ſilence, ſolitude, and darkneſs! un-
" utterable horror ſeized me at the proſpect,
" and this exclamation burſt from me with all
" the vehemence of deſire. O! that I had
" been doomed for ever to the common re-
" ceptacle of impenitence and guilt! there ſo-
" ciety would have alleviated the torment of
" deſpair, and the rage of fire could not have
" excluded the comfort of light. Or, if I
" had been condemned to reſide on a comet,
" that would return but once in a thouſand
" years to the regions of light and life; the
" hope of theſe periods, however diſtant,
" would cheer me in the dreary interval of
" cold and darkneſs, and the viciſſitude would
" divide eternity into time. While this
" thought paſſed over my mind, I loſt ſight of
" the remoteſt ſtar, and the laſt glimmering
" light was quenched in utter darkneſs. The
" agonies of deſpair every moment encreaſed,

" as

" as every moment augmented my diſtance
" from the laſt habitable world. I reflected
" with intolerable anguiſh, that when ten
" thouſand thouſand years had carried me be-
" yond the reach of all but that power who
" fills infinitude, I ſhould ſtill look forward
" into an immenſe abyſs of darkneſs, through
" which I ſhould ſtill drive without ſuccour
" and without ſociety, farther and farther
" ſtill, for ever and for ever. I then ſtretched
" out my hands towards the regions of exiſt-
" ence, with an emotion that awaked me.
" Thus have I been taught to eſtimate ſociety,
" like every other bleſſing by its loſs. My
" heart is warmed to liberality; and I am
" zealous to communicate the happineſs which
" I feel to thoſe from whom it is derived; for
" the ſociety of one wretch, whom in the
" pride of proſperity I would have ſpurned
" from my door, would in the dreadful ſoli-
" tude to which I was condemned, have been
" more highly prized than the gold of Africa,
" or the gems of Golconda."

At this reflection upon his dream, Carazan became ſuddenly ſilent, and looked upwards in an extacy of gratitude and devotion. The multitude was ſtruck at once with the precept and example; and the caliph, to whom the event was related, that he might be liberal beyond the power of gold, commanded it to be recorded for the benefit of poſterity.

King

King LEAR *and his* THREE DAUGHTERS.

THERE was a king who reigned in Britain, and had three daughters, Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia. He being old and infirm, came to a reſolution to marry his daughters, and to divide his kingdom among them. But having a mind, firſt of all, to know which of them loved him beſt, he reſolved to make an experiment, by aſking each of them ſeparately. Goneril, the eldeſt, apprehending too well her father's weakneſs, makes anſwer, that ſhe loved him above her own ſoul. Therefore, quoth the old man overjoyed, to thee and to the huſband whom thou ſhalt chuſe, I give the third of my realm.

Regan the ſecond daughter being aſked the ſame queſtion, and hoping to obtain as large a ſhare of her father's bounty as her eldeſt ſiſter had done, made anſwer, that ſhe loved him above all creatures; and ſo receives an equal reward with her ſiſter.

The king then proceeded to aſk Cordelia his youngeſt daughter, whom he had hitherto loved moſt tenderly of the three; who, although ſhe perceived how much the two eldeſt had gained by their flattery, yet would ſhe not thereby be induced to make other than a ſolid and a virtuous anſwer. "Father," ſays ſhe, "I love you as a child ought to love "her parent; they who pretend more than "this do but flatter you." The old man, ſorry to hear this, wiſhed her to recal thoſe words, and a ſecond time demanded what love ſhe bore unto him? ſhe repeating the ſame anſwer which ſhe had made him before; "Then hear thou," quoth Lear, (for that was the king's name) now all in a paſſion, "what "thy ingratitude hath gained thee; becauſe "thou haſt not reverenced thy aged father "equal to thy ſiſters, thou ſhalt have no part "of my kingdom or my riches." And ſoon after this he beſtows in marriage his two eldeſt daughters, Goneril to Maglaunus Duke of Albany, Regan to Henninus Duke of Cornwall, giving to them half his kingdom in preſent, and promiſing the reſt at his death.

In the mean while fame was not ſparing to divulge the wiſdom and other graces of Cordelia, inſomuch that Aganippus, a great king in Gaul, ſeeks her to wife; and nothing altered at the loſs of her dowry, receives her gladly in ſuch manner as ſhe was ſent unto him. After this, King Lear, more and more drooping with years, became an eaſy prey to his

his daughters and their huſbands, who now by daily encroachment had ſeized the whole kingdom into their hands, and the old king is put to ſojourn with his eldeſt daughter, attended only by threeſcore knights; but they, being in a ſhort while grudged at as too numerous and diſorderly for continual gueſts, are reduced to thirty. Not brooking that affront, the old king betakes him to his ſecond daughter; but there alſo diſcord ſoon ariſing between the ſervants of different maſters in one family, five only are ſuffered to attend him. Then back again he returns to the other; hoping that ſhe his eldeſt could not but have more pity on his grey hairs; but ſhe now refuſes to admit him, unleſs he will be content with one only of his followers. At laſt the remembrance of his youngeſt, Cordelia, comes to his thoughts; and now acknowledging how true her words had been, though he entertained but little hope of relief from one he had ſo much injured, yet reſolved to make an experiment if his miſery might ſomewhat ſoften her, he takes his journey into France.

Now we ſhall ſee a difference between the ſilent and downright ſpoken affection of ſome children to their parents, and the talkative obſequiouſneſs of others, while the hopes of inheritance acts in them, and on the tongue's end enlarges their duty. Cordelia, out of mere love, without the ſuſpicion of expected reward, at the meſſage only of her father in

diſtreſs, pours forth true filial tears. And not enduring either that her own or any other eye ſhould ſee him in ſuch forlorn condition as his meſſenger deſcribed, ſhe diſcreetly appoints one of her moſt truſty ſervants, firſt to convey him privately towards ſome good ſea-town, there to array him, bathe him, cheriſh him, and furniſh him with ſuch attendants and ſtate as beſeemed his dignity; that then, as from his firſt landing, he might ſend word of his arrival to her huſband Aganippus. Which done, with all mature and requiſite contrivance, Cordelia, with the king her huſband, and all the barony of his realm, who then firſt had news of his paſſing the ſea, go out to meet him; and after all honourable and joyful entertainment, Aganippus, as to his wife's father and his royal gueſt, ſurrenders him, during his abode there, the power and diſpoſal of his whole dominion; permitting his wife Cordelia to go with an army, and replace her father upon his throne: wherein her piety ſo proſpered, as that ſhe vanquiſhed her impious ſiſters with thoſe dukes, and Lear again obtained the crown; which he continued to enjoy ſome years in peace. When he died, Cordelia cauſed him with all regal ſolemnities to be buried in the town of Leiceſter.

The STORY *of* BOB EASY.

BOB EASY entered the world with a pretty paternal eſtate; he had at leaſt eight hundred pounds a year, wholly unincumbered, and could boaſt of connexions perhaps as conſiderable as moſt young fellows of middling fortune in the kingdom. Beſides theſe advantages, he poſſeſſed an elegant figure, a poliſhed addreſs, a liberal education, and a benevolent heart; ſo that on his firſt appearance in faſhionable life, he was every where thought (to borrow an expreſſion from Shakeſpear) a man of much mark and livelihood. Unhappily, however, Bob, inſtead of engaging himſelf in any purſuit, that was calculated either to extend his fortune, or exalt his character, gave a looſe to the natural gaiety of his temper, and paſſed the principal part of his time with a celebrated club of quality, who aſſociated in the neighbourhood of St

James's, from a generous intention of robbing their friends, as well as an humane deſire of deſtroying their conſtitutions. Here, though Bob very plainly ſaw the ſhameful principle upon which the meeting was founded, though he ſaw men of rank deſcend to all the infamous artifices of play, and had himſelf an inbred averſion to gaming, he ſtill would do as the company did, he was always willing to make one, and conſtantly cut in at the whiſt table, or ſat down with a party at hazard, the moment he was called upon for the purpoſe. The conſequences, however, became ſpeedily alarming; his eight hundred a year was in the courſe of one winter reduced to half the ſum; and he ſenſibly bid adieu to the club. Upon the firſt intimation of his retreat, the very people who had won his money, and addreſſed him with the warmeſt profeſſion of regard, were the firſt to cenſure his imprudence, and to name him with contempt. What buſineſs, cried one, had ſuch a puppy here? he ſhould have ſtaid at home, and confined himſelf to bread and cheeſe upon his little income. Aye, replied a ſecond, bread and cheeſe will ſhortly be his fare, for I am told he was arreſted this morning at the ſuit of his taylor. I am glad of that, returned the third, for if he is carried to goal, he will at leaſt be certain of a habitation. In this manner was poor Bob treated by many a right honourable ſharper, who in the days of his proſperity appeared his boſom friend, and never

never diſcovered an error in his conduct, while he was able to comply with the wiſhes of the company.

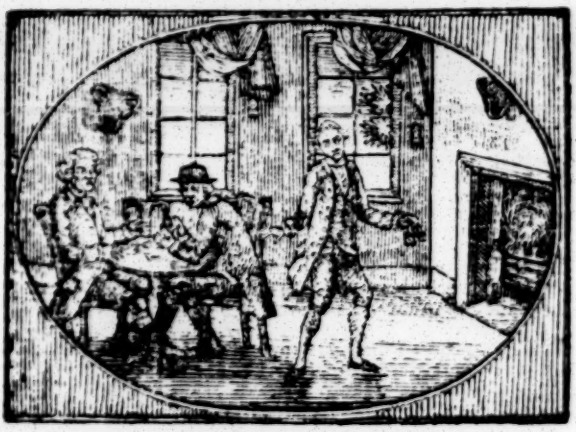
Hitherto Mr Eaſy had only injured himſelf by his willingneſs, to do as others did; but in his next round of acquaintance, which conſiſted of ſeveral damned hearty fellows, profeſſed admirers of the bottle, the complying turn of his temper was attended with more general inconveniencies. Did any ſot at four in the morning propoſe another bottle, he called upon Bob—honeſt Bob—and found Bob always ready to wait for a dozen, rather than diſappoint an individual of the company. Had any fool, in the hour of intoxication, a mind for a frolic, that is, a deſire of ſallying into the ſtreets to annoy the inoffenſive, he was ſure of a companion of Bob—Bob would make one; and even commit a violence upon his own humanity, to acquieſce with the very vices of his acquaintance. Thus numberleſs ſchemes, either of the abſurd, or the cruel, which probably would have died in their birth, were carried into execution, from the actual good nature of Mr Eaſy; and many, many times, has his downright regard for his friends, procured the beſt of them a ſound drubbing, and more than once occaſioned a trial at the Old Bailey. Notwithſtanding theſe diſagreeable accidents, Bob ſtill would do as every body elſe did, till one unfortunate evening, having an eye beat out in a fray with a hair-dreſſer, who ſtruck him with his

irons, he quitted the ſociety of the Bon Vivants, never more to return. The ſociety laughed immoderately at the motive of his retreat, damned him as a pitiful dog, for minding the loſs of his eye, and in the next bumper waſhed him eternally from their remembrance.

Bob, feeling the effects of gaming and good-fellowing ſo ſeverely, and having yet three hundred a-year left, upon his recovery after loſing his eye, got himſelf introduced to a jolly ſet of foxhunters, who were remarkable deſperate riders, and looked upon every man with contempt, who had ſenſe enough to take the leaſt care of his neck, in the courſe of their favourite diverſion. Bob, at the beſt, was but an indifferent rider, yet he would do as other people did, and therefore never balked even the moſt dangerous leaps. His ſpirit, in this reſpect, being highly talked of, a Smithfield ſaleſman, who was the Nimrod of the hunt, one day dared him to clear a quickſet, uncommonly high and woody, at the ſame time, giving his own gelding the ſpurs, and preparing to ſet him an example; the gelding, true blood to the back bone, flew, but not being able to do impoſſibilities, was almoſt laid open by a ſtake, while the ſaleſman, canted into a gravel pit at the other ſide, lay ſpeechleſs from a diſlocation of his neck. Bob, however, was not to be intimidated; he made an effort of complying with the deſire of his companion, but had the miſfortune

fortune to kill his horſe, and ſhatter his own leg ſo terribly, as to make amputation neceſſary for the ſafety of his life.—This melancholy circumſtance, cured him entirely of fox-hunting, and he now hobbles about town, ruined in his fortune, and deſtroyed in his conſtitution; the lamentable poſſeſſor of a ſingle eye, and a ſingle leg, ſhunned or laughed at by all, who once delighted in his acquaintance, and remaining an inconteſtible proof, that nothing is ſo dangerous as the ſacrifice of our reaſon, to the follies or the vices of our company.

The GAMESTER.



AT Tunbridge, in the year 1715, a gentleman whoſe name was Hedges, made a very brilliant appearance; he had been married about two years to a young lady of great beauty and large fortune; they had one child,

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a boy, on whom they beſtowed all that affection which they could ſpare from each other. He knew nothing of gaming, nor ſeemed to have the leaſt paſſion for play; but he was unacquainted with his own heart; he began by degrees to bet at the tables for trifling ſums, and his ſoul took fire at the proſpect of immediate gain; he was ſoon ſurrounded with ſharpers, who with calmneſs lay in ambuſh for his fortune, and coolly took advantage of the precipitancy of his paſſions.

His lady perceived the ruin of her family approaching, but at firſt, without being able to form any ſcheme to prevent it. She adviſed with her brother, who at that time was poſſeſſed of a fellowſhip in Cambridge. It was eaſily ſeen, that whatever paſſion took the lead in her huſband's mind, ſeemed to be there fixed unalterably; it was determined therefore to let him purſue fortune, but previouſly take meaſures to prevent the purſuit being fatal.

Accordingly every night this gentleman was a conſtant attender of the hazard-tables; he underſtood neither the arts of ſharpers, nor even the allowed ſtrokes of a connoiſſeur, yet he ſtill played. The conſequence is obvious; he loſt his eſtate, his equipage, his wife's jewels, and every other moveable that could be parted with, except a repeating watch. His agony upon this occaſion was inexpreſſible; he was even mean enough to aſk a gentleman who ſat near him to lend him

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a few pieces, in order to turn his fortune; but this prudent gameſter, who plainly ſaw there were no expectations of being repaid, refuſed to lend a farthing, alledging a former reſolution againſt lending. Hedges was at laſt furious with the continuance of ill ſucceſs, and pulling out his watch, aſked if any perſon in company would ſet him ſixty guineas upon it; the company were ſilent; he then demanded fifty; ſtill no anſwer; he ſunk to forty, thirty, twenty; finding the company ſtill without anſwering, he cried out, by God it ſhall never go for leſs, and daſhed it againſt the floor; at the ſame time attempting to daſh out his brains againſt the marble chimney-piece.

This laſt act of deſperation immediately excited the attention of the whole company; they inſtantly gathered round, and prevented the effects of his paſſion; and after he again became cool, he was permitted to return home, with ſullen diſcontent, to his wife. Upon his entering her apartment, ſhe received him with her uſual tenderneſs and ſatisfaction; while he anſwered her careſſes with contempt and ſeverity; his diſpoſition being quite altered with his misfortunes. But, my dear Jemmy, ſays his wife, perhaps you do not know the news I have to tell; my mamma's old uncle is dead, the meſſenger is now in the houſe, and you know his eſtate is ſettled upon you. This account ſeemed only to encreaſe his agony, and looking angrily at her,

her, cried, " there you lie, my dear, his eſ-
" tate is not ſettled upon me." " I beg your
" pardon," ſays ſhe, " I really thought it was,
" at leaſt you have always told me ſo." " No,"
returned he, " as ſure as you and I are to be
" miſerable here, and our children beggars
" hereafter, I have ſold the reverſion of it this
" day, and have loſt every farthing I got for
" it at the hazard table." " What all?" re-
plied the lady. " Yes, every farthing," re-
turned he, " and I owe a thouſand pounds
" more than I have to pay." Thus ſpeaking,
he took a few frantic ſteps acroſs the room.
When the lady had a little enjoyed his per-
plexity—" No, my dear," cried ſhe, " you
" have loſt but a trifle, and you owe nothing;
" our brother and I have taken care to pre-
" vent the effects of your raſhneſs, and are
" actually the perſons who have won your
" fortune; we employed proper perſons for
" this purpoſe, who brought their winnings
" to me; your money, your equipage, are in
" my poſſeſſion, and here I return them to
" you, from whom they were unjuſtly taken.
" I only aſk permiſſion to keep my jewels,
" and to keep you, my greateſt jewel, from
" ſuch dangers for the future." Her pru-
dence had the proper effect; he ever after re-
tained a ſenſe of his former follies, and never
played for the ſmalleſt ſums even for amuſe-
ment.

STORY

STORY *of* AMANDA.

MY father was a merchant of conſiderable note in this town; but by unavoidable loſſes and misfortunes he died two years ago, broken-hearted and inſolvent. I was his only child, and the delight of his life. My education, my dreſs, and manner of living were ſuch as would hardly have diſcredited a young woman of faſhion. Alas! the dear parent, to whoſe fondneſs I was indebted for every advantage and enjoyment, intended to have given me a conſiderable fortune; but he died as I have told you, and has left me to lament that I was not a beggar from my cradle.

I was ignorant of his circumſtances, and therefore felt not my misfortune in its full force till a month after his death; at which time his creditors entered upon his houſe, ſold all his furniture and effects, and left me nothing

thing but my clothes and trinkets which they had no right to take from me.

In the days of my proſperity I had a maid ſervant, of whom I was extremely fond; and to whom, upon her marriage with a reputable tradeſman, I gave a little portion of fifty pounds, which were left me by a relation. This young woman was lately become a widow, and being left in but indifferent circumſtances, ſhe hired a large houſe near the Exchange, and let lodgings for her ſupport. It was to this woman that I flew for ſhelter; being no more than eighteen years of age, and, as my father uſed often to tell me, too handſome to have friends.

I do not mention this circumſtance, indeed I do not, as any thing to be vain of; heaven knows that I am humbled by it to the very duſt; I only introduced it as the beſt excuſe I could think of for the unkindneſs of my acquaintance.

I was received by this favourite ſervant with great appearance of gratitude and eſteem. She ſeemed to pity my misfortune, and to take every opportunity of comforting and obliging me.

Among the gentlemen who lodged at her houſe, there was one whom ſhe uſed to talk of with great pleaſure. One day, after I had lived with her about a week, ſhe told me that this gentleman had a great inclination to be known to me, and that if I had no objection to company, he would drink tea

tea with us that afternoon. She had hardly done ſpeaking, when the gentleman entered the room. I was angry in my heart at this freedom; but his genteel appearance and behaviour ſoon got the better of my reſentment, and made me liſten to his converſation with more than common attention. To be ſhort as I can, his firſt viſit made me deſirous of a ſecond, that ſecond of a third, and the third of a thouſand more; all of which he ſeemed as eager to pay as I was willing to receive.

The houſe was ſo crowded with lodgers, that the miſtreſs of it had only one parlour for herſelf and me; and as ſhe had almoſt conſtant employment at home, my lover had very few opportunities of entertaining me alone. But the preſence of a third perſon did not hinder him from declaring the moſt tender and unalterable love for me, nor did it awe me from diſcovering how pleaſed and happy I was at the conqueſt I had made.

In this delightful ſituation near a twelvemonth paſſed away; during which time he would often lament his dependence upon an old uncle, who, he ſaid, would moſt aſſuredly diſinherit him, if he married a woman without a fortune.

I wanted no better reaſon for this delay; and was waiting for an event which promiſed me the poſſeſſion of all I wiſhed for, when my happineſs was interrupted by the moſt villainous contrivance that ever was heard of.

I had walked out one morning to buy ſome ſhades of ſilk, in order to finiſh the covering of a ſettee which I was working for my benefactreſs; and was returning home through a by-court, when to my inexpreſſible ſurprize, I found myſelf ſtopt by two men, who producing what they called a writ againſt me, hurried me into a coach, and conveyed me, half dead with terror, to a wretched houſe whoſe windows were guarded with iron bars.

As ſoon as I had power to ſpeak, I deſired to know by whom and for what crime I was thus cruelly inſulted. They ſhewed me without heſitation their authority; by which it appeared that the woman with whom I lived had ordered me to be arreſted for a debt of thirty pounds, which ſhe had ſworn I owed her for board and lodging. "It is impoſ-"ſible!" cried I, "ſhe cannot have ſerved "me ſo! There muſt be ſome miſtake in "this! Send for her this moment! I am ſure "it is a miſtake." "Very poſſible, Madam," anſwered one of the fellows with a ſmile, "but if you would take my advice, it ſhould "be to ſend for a gentleman inſtead of the "plaintiff. A young lady, like you, madam, "need not ſtay here for a debt of thirty "pounds." "Go where I ſend you, Sir, "ſaid I; tell her what has happened, and "bid her haſten to me, if ſhe would ſave my "life." The fellow ſhook his head as he went out, but promiſed to do as I directed.

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His companion aſked me what I pleaſed to call for, and explained his meaning by telling me I was in a public houſe. I bid him call for what he liked, and charge it to me; he thanked me very civilly, and locking the door after him, left me to myſelf.

I had now a little leiſure to reflect upon this adventure; but the more I thought of it, the greater was my perplexity. I remained in this uncomfortable ſuſpence for near an hour, when I heard the door open with precipitation, and ſaw my lover enter the room with an aſtoniſhment not to be imagined. "Good "God!" ſaid he, ſnatching me up in his arms, "is this an apartment for my charmer? "—That inhuman woman!"—"What wo-"man?" ſaid I, interrupting him, "can it "be poſſible?"—"She owns it herſelf," anſwered he, "this profeſſing friend, this "grateful ſervant owns that ſhe has arreſted "you." I was ready to faint at what I heard, but recovering myſelf as well as I could, I enquired into the motive of this woman's cruelty. "Her motive," he replied, "was ava-"rice; I had ſome words with her two days "ago, and threatened her in jeſt that I would "leave her lodgings. She thought me in "earneſt; and believing I was ſoon to marry "the angel whom I doated on, ſhe determined "to make what money ſhe could of me, by "arreſting my ſweet girl. She was not miſta-"ken when ſhe gueſſed with what haſte I "ſhould diſcharge the debt. Here, Sir,"

continued he, turning to the bailiff, " here is " the full ſum, and a gratuity for yourſelf. " Come, madam, let us change this deteſted " place, for apartments more worthy of you."

The coach that brought him to my priſon was at the door. He immediately put me into it, and conducted me to a lace-ſhop upon Ludgate-Hill. I remained in the coach while he ſtept into the ſhop, and continued for a minute or two in converſation with the miſtreſs of it; when returning to me with great chearfulneſs, he gave me joy of his ſucceſs, and handed me up ſtairs into pleaſant and convenient apartments. The exact order in which I found every thing in theſe apartments put me upon obſerving that the owner of them was a propheteſs, and knew that I ſhould have need of them that very morning. My lover made no anſwer to my remark, but ſtraining me to his arms, and almoſt preſſing me to death, he called them my bridal apartments, and bid me welcome to them as ſuch. He then went down to order dinner and a bottle of champaign from the tavern, and returned to me with ſo much love and joy in his looks, that I was charmed with him beyond expreſſion. When dinner was removed, and the ſervant who attended us withdrawn, he ſaid and looked ſo many fond and endearing things, and mingled ſuch careſſes with his words and looks, forcing upon me at the ſame time three or four glaſſes of a wine I was not uſed to, that my heart, warm as it was before

with love and gratitude, conſented to his deſires, and in one fatal moment betrayed me to a villain.

I lived in this guilty commerce till the effects of it made me apprehenſive of becoming a mother in a few weeks. I had often preſſed him for the performance of his promiſes; and was now reſolved to be more particularly urgent with him upon that ſubject; but inſtead of liſtening to me as I hoped he would, he called haſtily for his ſword, and took leave of me till the evening.

I expected his return with the utmoſt impatience. The evening came; another, and another after that; but I neither ſaw him nor heard from him. Upon the fourth day of his leaving me, I received a viſit from the miſtreſs of the houſe, who, to my great aſtoniſhment, addreſſed me in theſe words:

"I thought, madam, at your entrance into "this houſe, that you were a married woman. "The lady who hired the lodgings for you "two days before, gave me aſſurance that you "were married." "What lady?" cried I. "You amaze me! I heard not of theſe lodgings "till I had taken poſſeſſion of them. Be "quick and tell me who was this lady?" "Alas! anſwered my viſitor, I knew not till "this morning that you were fallen into the "ſnares of the worſt of women, and the moſt "artful of men." She ſaw my amazement, but deſiring my attention, proceeded thus: "As for the gentleman (if he deſerves the

" name of one) you will never ſee him more" —" How, madam, never ſee him more!" interrupted I—My voice failed me as I uttered theſe words; and leaning backwards in my chair, I fainted away. She recovered me from my ſwoon, and then went on. " He " has juſt now ſent his ſervant to diſcharge " the lodgings; of whom when I enquired " how you were to be taken care of in your " approaching hour, his anſwer was, that he " had no commiſſion to ſpeak to ſuch queſ- " tions. Pray, madam, continued ſhe, is it " true that you were arreſted in the ſtreet the " morning of your entrance into theſe lodg- " ings?" I told her yes. " The ſervant then " is honeſt," ſhe replied. " He has given " me your whole hiſtory. The contrivers of " that arreſt were the woman where you " lodged, and the villain whom you truſted. " Their deſign was to fling you entirely into " his power, that he might uſe it to your de- " ſtruction. But do not deſpair, madam," added ſhe, ſeeing me in the utmoſt affliction, " all women are not monſters. I have com- " paſſion upon your youth, and will aſſiſt " you in your diſtreſſes. Theſe apartments " are yours, till you deſire to reſign them; " nor ſhall any thing be wanting that your " ſituation ſhall require, or that a lady in " happier circumſtances would wiſh to be " provided with. And hereafter, if you ſhall " chuſe to continue with me, and aſſiſt me " in my buſineſs, I will look upon you as my " daughter,

" daughter, and forget every thing that has " befallen you."

Oppreſſed as I was with grief and ſhame, my heart bounded at this propoſal. I fell upon the neck of my benefactreſs, and bedewed it with tears; telling her, as well as thoſe tears would permit me, that I was bound to her for ever, and would wiſh for no other happineſs than to ſerve and pleaſe her.

Three months are paſt ſince I have been the mother of a ſweet boy; in all which time I have never ſeen (and I pray heartily that I may never ſee) his inhuman father. The generous woman, who ſupports me, is even kinder to me than her promiſe. She pays herſelf, ſhe ſays, in the comfortable thought, that ſhe has been an inſtrument in the hand of heaven to ſave me from deſtruction. She told me yeſterday, that the ſtratagem by which this monſter got me into his power, with every particular of his behaviour to me before and after it, is his favourite ſubject in all companies. To deprive him therefore of his principal pleaſure, I have thought proper to take the ſtory out of his hands, by telling it myſelf.

DOCUMENT *of* FILIAL DUTY.

An Oriental Tale.

WHY ſhould moral documents, intended for mankind, be always ſought for among the moſt eminent, when neceſſary in all ranks? Locman and Pilpay have ſucceſsfully taken ſome from the brute creation. Philoſophy comprehends all the human ſpecies; inequality vaniſhes before its eyes; it diveſts the monarch of the ornaments and enſigns of ſovereignty, and over-looks the ſpade in the labourer's hand. Its juſt eſtimate, penetrating beyond externals, makes them only two men of the like nature.

In thoſe countries which know only two ranks, the deſpote and his ſlaves, where diſtinctions are perſonal, where the ſon does not of courſe ſucceed to his anceſtor's dignities, where the vizier is often taken from the plough

plough, and the reigns of adminiſtration put into his hand, there wealth is the only mark of inequality.

Mehemet having received his birth amidſt the moſt abject poverty, the moſt laborious induſtry in his mean calling ſcarce afforded him even a ſcanty ſubſiſtance for himſelf; an aged father likewiſe lay upon him.

Stimulated, however, by the univerſal paſſion, he ventured to take a female help-mate. To her he committed the care of his father, and of the hut which ſheltered them. Every evening at the concluſion of his labour, he uſed to return ſtraight home, and, with a kiſs, put his earnings into her lap. Fatima, the name of his conſort, ſoon brought him a ſon. In the midſt of the joy this birth gave him, the hardſhips and diſtreſſes which this child was, in the common courſe of things, to undergo, roſe in the mind of Mehemet, accompanied with a moſt pungent anxiety. He had, till then, known nothing of ambition; now he is ardently deſirous of procuring him a more happy ſituation. To this ſome wealth, as the means of eaſe, was requiſite; but of that, with ſuch ſlender earnings as his, there was no manner of proſpect.

While he was taken up with theſe diſtracting ideas, his eyes happened to fall on his father, now through age unable to furniſh his contingent towards the family expences.—Then it was Mehemet, for the firſt time, perceived that he was a burthen to him, which laid

laid him under an utter impoſſibility of making any ſavings; he now looked upon him only as a peeviſh, infirm old man, continually murmuring, and requiring the moſt diligent attendance.

He forgot his great right to require it, and being a father, he no longer remembered that he was likewiſe a ſon.

The munificence and devotion of the ſultans had founded public aſylums for the relief of indigent ſenility. The opulence of theſe hoſpitable receptacles was publicly known, but little benefit did the poor reap from it. The treaſures appropriated to charity, avarice had diverted to very different objects. It was with deſpair and trembling that any wretch reduced to make theſe abodes his refuge, went to them, having nothing before his eyes for the remainder of his melancholy days, but diſtreſs, hardſhip, and inſult, which would naturally abridge them.

Mehemet, who amidſt his meanneſs and poverty would ſhudder at the ſight of thoſe manſions, now recollected that his father was a proper object for admittance. Thus eager to rid himſelf of trouble and expence, and poſſibly ſoured by ſome of the caprices uſual to longevity, and that peeviſhneſs which ſticks ſo cloſe to diſquietude and infirmities, he flatly told his father, that he muſt ſeek him another dwelling.

The hoary father anſwered only with tears and ſighs. Mehemet, knowing him unable to follow

follow him, took him on his ſhoulders, and ſet out towards the receptacle of decrepid poverty. The way being long and fatiguing, he was, with all his vigour, obliged to reſt; and depoſiting his burden at the corner of a ſtreet, he ſat down by his ſide.

The old man, on being carried out of the houſe, burſt into a flood of tears, accompanied with violent ſobs and groanings; but here all his convulſions ſuddenly ceaſed. He appeared for ſome moments wrapped up in penſiveneſs, till leaning towards his ſon, and claſping him in his arms, "I forgive you," ſaid he, "this treatment of yours is no more "than I deſerve. I receive it with a reſigned "acknowledgement of its juſtice. God ſees "to the very bottom of our hearts; to him "are our moſt ſecret motions known; he "keeps an exact regiſter of all our actions; and "in time, his time is ever the beſt, rewards "or puniſhes them. Forty-five years ago, "and in this very month," added he, "did "I carry your grandfather to this very ſame "abode, whither you now are carrying me. "I was ungrateful, you are ſo; your ſon, "perhaps, may prove ſo.—God is righteous, "bleſſed be his holy name!"—At theſe words he proſtrated himſelf on the ground; and kiſſing it with fervent devotion, humbled himſelf before the being of beings, ſo adorable in the depths of his diſpenſations.

Mehemet liſtened with increaſing aſtoniſhment. A beam of light darted into his ſoul.

He

He was unable to anſwer. But taking his aged father again on his back, he returned home with him, ſcarce ſenſible of any weight. Now ſtricken with horror at the deſign to which his avarice had prompted him, he expreſſed his repentance by overflowing tenderneſs, and moſt aſſiduous care. His father was now no longer any burthen or vexation to him: he became more alert in buſineſs; his gains increaſed, and every thing proſpered with him; which, with time and good management, procured him the eaſy ſtation on which his heart had been ſo ſtudiouſly fixed, and he remarkably experienced, that heaven never fails of rewarding filial affection.

The STORY *of* ALNASCAR *the* Perſian Glaſsman.

ALNASCAR was a very idle fellow, that would never ſet his hand to any buſineſs during

during his father's life. When his father died, he left him to the value of a hundred drachmas in Perſian money. Almaſcar, in order to make the beſt of it, laid it out in glaſſes, bottles, and the fineſt earthen ware. Theſe he piled up in a large open baſket, and having made choice of a very little ſhop, and placed the baſket at his feet, he leaned his back againſt the wall, in expectation of cuſtomers. As he ſat in this poſture, with his eyes upon the baſket, he fell into a moſt amuſing train of thought, and was overheard by one of his neighbours, as he talked by himſelf, in the following manner: "This baſket," ſays he, "coſt me at the wholeſale merchant's "one hundred drachmas, which is all I have "in the world, I ſhall quickly make two hun-"dred of it by ſelling it in retail. Theſe two "hundred drachmas will in a very little time "ariſe to four hundred, which of courſe will "in time amount to four thouſand. Four "thouſand drachmas cannot fail of making "eight thouſand. As ſoon as by this means "I am maſter of ten thouſand, I will lay aſide "my trade of glaſsman, and turn jeweller. "I ſhall then deal in diamonds, pearls, and "all ſorts of rich ſtones. When I have got to-"gether as much wealth as I can well deſire, "I will make a purchaſe of the fineſt houſe I "can find, with lands, ſlaves, eunuchs, and "horſes. I ſhall then begin to enjoy myſelf, "and make a noiſe in the world. I will not "however ſtop there, but ſtill continue my

" traffic, till I have got together an hundred
" thouſand drachmas. When I have made
" myſelf maſter of an hundred thouſand
" drachmas, I ſhall naturally ſet myſelf on
" the foot of a prince, and will demand the
" grand vizier's daughter in marriage, after
" having repreſented to that miniſter the in-
" formation which I have received of the
" beauty, wit, diſcretion, and other high qua-
" lities which his daughter poſſeſſes. I will
" let him know, at the ſame time, that it is
" my intention to make him a preſent of a thou-
" ſand pieces of gold on our marriage night.
" As ſoon as I have married the grand vizier's
" daughter, I'll buy her ten black eunuchs,
" the youngeſt and beſt that can be got for
" money. I muſt afterwards make my father
" in law a viſit with a great train of equipage;
" and when I am placed at his right hand,
" which he will do of courſe, if it be only to
" honour his daughter, I will give him the
" thouſand pieces of gold which I promiſed
" him, and afterwards, to his great ſurprize,
" will preſent him another of the ſame value,
" with ſome ſhort ſpeech; as, Sir, you ſee I
" am a man of my word: I always give more
" than I promiſe. When I have brought the
" princeſs to my houſe, I ſhall take particular
" care to breed her in a due reſpect to me,
" before I give the reins to love and dal-
" liance. To this end I ſhall confine her to
" her own apartment, make her a ſhort viſit,
" and talk but little to her. Her women will

" re-

" repreſent to me that ſhe is inconſolable by
" reaſon of my unkindneſs, and beg with
" tears to careſs her, and let her ſit down by
" me; but I ſhall remain inexorable, and
" turn my back upon her all the firſt night.
" Her mother will then come and bring her
" daughter to me, as I am ſeated upon my
" ſo a. The daughter with tears in her eyes,
" w . fling herſelf at my feet, and beg of me
" t receive her into my favour: then will I,
" to imprint in her a thorough veneration for
" my perſon, draw up my legs and ſpurn her
" from me with my foot, in ſuch a manner,
" that ſhe ſhall fall down ſeveral paces from
" the ſofa."

Alnaſcar was entirely ſwallowed up in this chimerical viſion, and could not forbear acting with his foot what he had in his thoughts: ſo that unluckily ſtriking his baſket of brittle ware, which was the foundation of all his grandeur, he kicked his glaſſes to a great diſtance from him into the ſtreet, and broke them into ten thouſand pieces.

The STORY *of the* PROMOTION *of a* CLERGYMAN, *in a very extraordinary Manner.*

IN Queen Anne's reign, the Britiſh Auguſtan age, few made a more illuſtrious figure than Butler, duke of Ormond, who, for his attachment to the cauſe of the court of St Germains, was a particular favourite of the Queen, and of the tory party, who then held the ſuperiority in the court. Once it happened that as his grace (who had been choſen to be lord lieutenant of Ireland) was on his paſſage to undertake his government, he was forced in, by contrary winds, upon the then almoſt barren iſland of Ma: there was no place in this ſmall and bleak iſland where his excellency could find tolerable accommodation, but a poor clergyman's houſe, in which were two or three ſmall rooms, and theſe but very poorly furniſhed; however, theſe inconveniences were amply compenſated by the chearful and happy

happy diſpoſition of the landlord, and the frugal, but decent hoſpitality, with which his excellency was particularly charmed. The wind ſome days after ſhifting about, the duke and his retinue prepared for ſetting out again on their paſſage; but before he went on board, being at breakfaſt, he aſked his landlord what his living was? "Only twenty-"two pounds," replied Joſeph; (for that was his name). At which his excellency being ſurprized, aſked again, how he came to have things ſo decent and neat, on ſuch a ſmall ſalary? "Why," replied he, "my wife Re-"becca is an excellent houſewife, and as we "have two cows, ſhe ſells the milk and cheeſe, "and almoſt ſupports the family; whilſt we "reſerve my twenty-two pounds for cloaths, "and our children's education, which, at all e-"vents, I am determined to give them, and "then the world is before them, let them "ſhift for themſelves." Ormond was charmed at the ſight of ſo much contentment, and genuine felicity, which this poor, but generous clergyman, enjoyed: and therefore having made the frugal wife a handſome preſent, he promiſed to do ſtill ſomething more for Joſeph, her huſband, and immediately went on board.

Joſeph having waited with anxiety, from time to time, to hear of ſomething being done in his favour, in vain, he at laſt took the reſolution of going to Dublin, and puſhing his fortune, for which he ſeemed to have

had only this ſingle chance in his whole life. Fully bent on his deſign, he ſet out, and ſoon arrived at Dublin. Being a man of ſome abilities, he imagined the only way to attain his end would be, if poſſible, by preaching before his excellency, and uſing every ſtroke of addreſs to make the Duke recollect who he was, and what he had promiſed. He thought if he could gain his end this way, it would be more ſucceſsful than by an indelicate bluntneſs to come to his excellency's lodgings, and put him in mind of his promiſe.

Upon this he applied to the Dean, to be permitted to preach in the cathedral next Sunday. The Dean, who knew nothing about him, and never heard of him before, ſeemed a little ſurprized at the requeſt, and being of a humane and gentle diſpoſition, he did not peremptorily refuſe it; but judging it neceſſary to be ſomewhat acquainted with the abilities of the perſon to whom he was to grant this favour, he artfully entered into a converſation with this ſtranger, upon various ſubjects, and found him to be a man poſſeſſed of no contemptible ſhare of both natural and acquired abilities: he permitted him to preach next ſabbath forenoon before his excellency, and both houſes of peers and commons. Having mounted the pulpit, he choſe that remarkable text—"But the chief butler" (his grace's name was Butler) "remembered "not Joſeph, but forgat him." Here he uſed his utmoſt efforts to paint out the unhappy ten-

tendency that high life has upon the great, to make them overlook beneficent actions done them on ſome occaſions, by thoſe that even tread in the humbleſt paths of indigence and obſcurity; and having deſcribed the inhumanity and injuſtice of this negligence towards their generous benefactors, he obſerved, that this negligence often rather took its riſe from the multiplicity of buſineſs in which they were laudably employed, or from having their ear poiſoned with the faſcinating adulations of that ſervile crowd of flatterers that never fail, on all occaſions, to ſeduce their attention from the moſt noble of all purſuits—of humanity, benevolence, and compaſſion—for thoſe of ſenſuality, intemperance, riot, and debauchery, than from any innate depravity of heart. Having delineated this unhappy tenor of conduct at ſome length, and with the moſt pathetic, lively, and animated addreſs, ſo that almoſt every perſon hearing him felt what he ſaid: he fully accompliſhed his deſign, by making this ſtriking application:—"And now, my honoured hearers, let us "turn our thoughts inward, and queſtion "ourſelves.—Did ever I get a kind office "done me by one of an inferior ſtation of "life, and to whom a bountiful providence "had not been ſo liberal, as to worldly affluence, but had beſtowed more valuable favours—thoſe of a kind, generous, and open heart; and, like the poor widow in the goſpel, that freely gave a mite to the poor,

"al-

" although it was all her living;—and have
" I overlooked ſuch generoſity, and baſely for-
" got to reward it ſeven-fold.—Have ever I,
" in my life, been in ſuch a ſituation, expo-
" ſed to the inclemencies of the ſtorm, and
" where conflicting elements ſeemed to con-
" ſpire for my ruin? And did ever any of a
" low, but contented ſtation of life, with
" open arms receive me, and my weather-
" beaten attendants into his houſe; while,
" perhaps, his equally kind ſpouſe was buſy
" in heaping on plenty of fuel, to recall the
" heat into our chilled and benumbed limbs;
" and, with the utmoſt ſolicitude, preparing
" a repaſt of decent, plain, and comfortable
" food, to revive our exhauſted ſpirits, and
" to cheriſh our hearts, now ſecure from the
" impetuoſity of the roaring ſtorm; nor
" would the kind pair permit us to venture
" away from their frugal, but happy abode,
" till ſerener weather, and milder ſkies, invi-
" ted our departure, although they had no
" hopes, or at leaſt no certainty, of retaliation
" on my part:—And have I, with a baſeneſs
" of ſoul, unworthy of my ſtation, allowed
" ſuch true benevolence to paſs unrewarded,
" and, aſhamed to acknowledge by benefac-
" tors, have ſuffered them to languiſh under
" the iron graſp of poverty, and, poſſibly,
" to ſolicit charity's cold hand in vain?"

Here the duke, who was all along attentive to the ſermon, could not help examining his own conduct; and, upon recollection, found by thu-

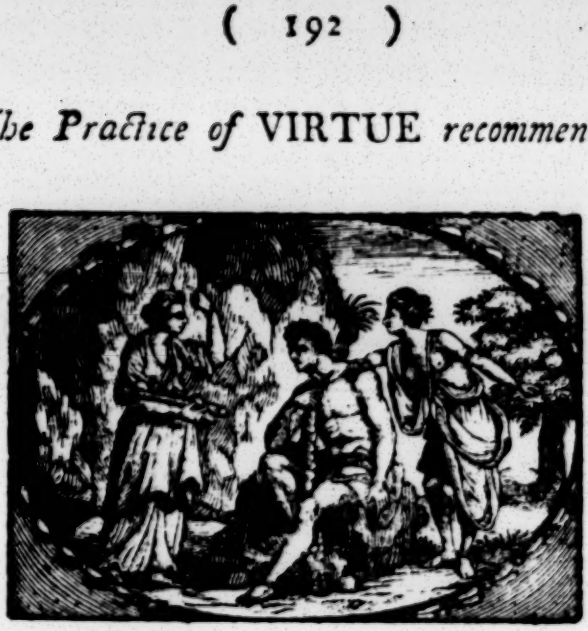
that he himſelf was guilty of ſome pieces of negligence, equally criminal, and perfectly ſimilar to this which had juſt now been deſcribed in ſo affecting colours; but he was ſtill more affected, when, upon a thorough examination of the parſon, he found he bore a ſtriking reſemblance to the figure and features of his own hoſpitable landlord in the iſland of Ila; and whom, till brought to recollection by this affecting diſcourſe, he had inhumanely forgot: upon which he turned to one of his lords, and aſked him, if this was not their old landlord in Ila? To which he replied, "Pleaſe your excellency, I think it "is." "Cauſe him after ſervice to come and "dine with me." Joſeph being brought in, and ſet down, the duke aſked him if he did not come from Ila, and was not his deſign to put him in mind of his promiſe to provide for him? Here Joſeph bluſhed, and, with that ingenuity natural to a generous mind, confeſſed that it was he, and that it really was his ſole intention, as he imagined his excellency's neglect of him did not ariſe from a contempt of his meanneſs of life, or from a diſhonourable ſhame of acknowledging a good office when done by an inferior, which a great ſoul like his excellency's diſdained, but from the vaſt and important concerns of the government, with which he was intruſted, he would account it no matter of ſurprize, that this, like a ſmall receipt amidſt a heap of papers, was fallen aſide and loſt. To which the

duke

duke replied, " You are a worthy man!" and immediately after dinner he ordered ſome of his clerks to look over the vacancies of the church. The clerks after ſearching, told his excellency there was none but a living of four hundred pounds per annum. His excellency anſwered, there is none more deſerving of it than this generous, worthy man, and immediately preferred Joſeph from his poor twenty-two pounds a year, to four hundred pounds. But mark the quick tranſitions of fortune! The whig intereſt getting the ſuperiority, (for jarring intereſts and faction will always be joined in a free ſtate) the duke of Ormond was diveſted of all his dignities, and eſcaping a trial, by retiring to France, he was fugitated, and his large fortune was forfeited to the crown. The generoſity of his friends for ſome time ſupplied him; but alas! theſe aids were ſoon withdrawn, and the once great duke of Ormond, lord lieutenant of Ireland, lieutenant general of her majeſty's armies, &c. &c. now found himſelf treading in the loweſt paths of fortune, and ſurrounded with all the horrors of indigence, contempt, and death. But how agreeably was he ſurprized to find a comfortable ſupply from a very unexpected channel, viz. his old friend Joſeph! —That generous-hearted man hearing of his great patron and benefactor's misfortunes, thought the leaſt part of his duty was to ſpare as much as he could out of his benefice, to ſupply the neceſſities of that great and good man,

man, from whom he had all his living; and therefore one day taking his wife aſide, ſays to her, " Becca, my dear, you hear what has " happened to the duke of Ormond, who li- " berally put us into our preſent affluent ſitu- " ation; and you know very well we can as " eaſily live upon one hundred pounds a year " as one thouſand pounds, what would you " think of ſettling three hundred pounds a " year upon our generous patron for life; " for I hear, to the diſgrace of his friends, he " is in danger of periſhing for real want." Becca readily conſented to ſo noble a propoſal, and immediately Joſeph modeſtly remitted to the duke the firſt quarter of his annuity. Struck with this ſecond act of kindneſs, his grace wrote a full account of it to a great perſonage at court, who, although in different intereſts, yet ſtill preſerved the laws of friendſhip, amidſt all the commotions of ſtate, inviolable and ſecure. Being charmed with ſuch true generoſity in a poor man, this courtier got Joſeph preferred to a ſecond living, which made them worth eight hundred pounds a year; but prior to this ſecond preferment, the duke of Ormond died in exile, ſo that Joſeph had it now no more in his power to relieve the wants, and alleviate the misfortunes of his noble benefactor; for he was now ſecure from the bluſtering ſtorms of adverſity, in that land of ſilence *where the weary are at reſt, and where the wicked ceaſe from troubling.*

The Practice of VIRTUE *recommended.*



WHEN Hercules, ſays the divine Prodicus, was in that part of his youth, in which it was natural for him to conſider what courſe of life he ought to purſue, he one day retired into a deſart, where the ſilence and ſolitude of the place very much favoured his meditations. As he was muſing on his preſent condition, very much perplexed in himſelf on the ſtate of life he ſhould chuſe, he ſaw two women of a larger ſtature than ordinary approaching towards him. One of them had a very notable air and graceful deportment; her beauty was natural and eaſy; her perſon clean and unſpotted; her eyes caſt towards the ground with an agreeable reſerve; her motion and behaviour full of modeſty; and her raiment white as ſnow. The other had a great deal of health and floridneſs in her countenance,

tenance, which ſhe had helped with an artificial white and red, and endeavoured to appear more graceful than ordinary in her mien, by a mixture of affectation in all her geſtures. She had a wonderful confidence and aſſurance in her looks, and all the variety of colours in her dreſs that ſhe thought were the moſt proper to ſhew her complexion to an advantage. She caſt her eyes upon herſelf, then turned them on thoſe that were preſent, to ſee how they liked her, and often looked on the figure ſhe made in her own ſhadow. Upon her nearer approach to Hercules, ſhe ſtepped before the other lady, (who came forward with a regular compoſed carriage) and running up to him, accoſted him after the following manner:

"My dear Hercules," ſays ſhe, "I find "you are very much divided in your own "thoughts upon the way of life that you "ought to chuſe: be my friend, and follow "me; I will lead you into the poſſeſſion of "pleaſure, and out of the reach of pain, and "remove you from all the noiſe and diſqui-"etude of buſineſs. The affairs of either war "or peace ſhall have no power to diſturb you. "Your whole employment ſhall be to make "your life eaſy, and to entertain every ſenſe "with its proper gratifications. Sumptuous "tables, beds of roſes, clouds of perfumes, "concerts of muſic, crouds of beauties, are "all in readineſs to receive you. Come along "with me into this region of delights, this

" world of pleaſure, and bid farewel for ever " to care, to pain, and to buſineſs."—

Hercules, hearing the lady talk after this manner, deſired to know her name; to which ſhe anſwered, " My friends, and thoſe " who are well acquainted with me, call me " Happineſs; but my enemies, and thoſe " who would injure my reputation, have " given me the name of Pleaſure."

By this time the other lady was come up, who addreſſed herſelf to the young hero in a very different manner.

" Hercules," ſays ſhe, " I offer myſelf to " you, becauſe I know you are deſcended " from the Gods, and give proofs of that de- " ſcent by your love to virtue, and application " to the ſtudies proper for your age. This " makes me hope you will gain both for your- " ſelf and me an immortal reputation. But " before I invite you into my ſociety and " friendſhip, I will be open and ſincere with " you, and muſt lay down this as an eſta- " bliſhed truth, that there is nothing truly " valuable which can be purchaſed without " pains and labour. The Gods have ſet a " price upon every real and noble pleaſure. " If you would gain the favour of the deity, " you muſt be at the pains of worſhipping " him; if the friendſhip of good men, you " muſt ſtudy to oblige them; if you would " be honoured by your country, you muſt " take care to ſerve it. In ſhort, if you " would be eminent in war or peace, you

" muſt

" muſt become maſter of all the qualifications
" that can make you ſo. Theſe are the only
" terms and conditions upon which I can
" propoſe happineſs." The goddeſs of plea-
" ſure here broke in upon her diſcourſe:
" You ſee," ſaid ſhe, " Hercules, by her own
" confeſſion, the way to her pleaſure is long,
" and difficult, whereas that which I propoſe
" is ſhort and eaſy." " Alas!" ſaid the other
lady, whoſe viſage glowed with a paſſion,
made up of ſcorn and pity, " what are the
" pleaſures you propoſe? To eat before you
" are hungry, drink before you are thirſty,
" ſleep before you are tired, to gratify appe-
" tites before they are raiſed, and raiſe ſuch
" appetites as nature never planted. You ne-
" ver heard the moſt delicious muſic, which
" is the praiſe of one's ſelf; nor ſaw the moſt
" beautiful object, which is the work of one's
" own hands. Your votaries paſs away their
" youth in a dream of miſtaken pleaſures,
" while they are hoarding up anguiſh, tor-
" ment, and remorſe, for old age.

" As for me, I am a friend of the Gods and
" of good men, an agreeable companion to
" the artiſan, a houſhold guardian to the fa-
" thers of families, a patron and protector of
" ſervants, and an aſſociate in all true and gene-
" rous friendſhips. The banquets of my vota-
" ries are never coſtly, but always delicious;
" for none eat or drink at them who are not
" invited by hunger and thirſt. Their ſlum-
" bers are ſound, and their wakings chear-

" ful. My young men have the pleaſure of
" hearing themſelves praiſed by thoſe who
" are in years; and thoſe who are in years,
" of being honoured by thoſe who are young.
" In a word, my followers are favoured by
" the Gods, beloved by their acquaintance,
" eſteemed by their country, and (after the
" cloſe of their labours) honoured by poſte-
" rity."

We know by the life of this memorable hero, to which of theſe two ladies he gave up his heart; and I believe every one who reads this will do him the juſtice to approve his choice.

I very much admire the ſpeeches of theſe ladies, as containing in them the chief arguments for a life of virtue, or a life of pleaſure, that could enter into the thoughts of an heathen; but am particularly pleaſed with the different figures he gives the two goddeſſes. Our modern authors have repreſented Pleaſure and Vice with an alluring face, but ending in ſnakes and monſters; here ſhe appears in all the charms of beauty, though they are all falſe and borrowed, and by that means, compoſes a viſion entirely natural and pleaſing.

I have tranſlated this allegory for the benefit of the youth of Great Britain; and particularly of thoſe who are ſtill in the deplorable ſtate of non-exiſtence, and whom I moſt earneſtly entreat to come into the world. Let my embryos ſhew the leaſt inclination to

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any ſingle virtue, and I ſhall allow it to be a ſtruggling towards birth. I do not expect of them that, like the hero in the foregoing ſtory, they ſhould go about as ſoon as they are born with a club in their hands, and a lion's ſkin on their ſhoulders, to root out monſters and deſtroy tyrants; but as the fineſt author of all antiquity has ſaid upon this very occaſion, though a man has not the abilities to diſtinguiſh himſelf in the moſt ſhining parts of a great character, he has certainly the capacity of being juſt, faithful, modeſt, and temperate.

DISTRESS *encouraged to* HOPE.

THE father of Meliſſa was the younger ſon of a country gentleman who poſſeſſed an eſtate of about five hundred a year; but as this was to be the inheritance of the

elder brother, and as there were three ſiſters to be provided for, he was at about ſixteen taken from Eton ſchool, and apprenticed to a conſiderable merchant at Briſtol. The young gentleman, whoſe imagination had been fired by the exploits of heroes, the victories gained by magnanimous preſumption, and the wonders diſcovered by daring curioſity, was not diſpoſed to conſider the acquiſition of wealth as the limit of his ambition, or the repute of honeſt induſtry as the total of his fame. He regarded his ſituation as ſervile and ignominious, as the degradation of his genius and the preclusion of his hopes; and longing to go in ſearch of adventures, he neglected his buſineſs as unworthy of his attention, heard the remonſtrances of his maſter with a kind of ſullen diſdain, and after two years legal ſlavery made his eſcape, and at the next town enliſted himſelf a ſoldier; not doubting but that by his military merit, and the fortune of war, he ſhould return a general officer, to the confuſion of thoſe who would have buried him in the obſcurity of a compting-houſe. He found means effectually to elude the enquiries of his friends, as it was of the utmoſt importance to prevent their officious endeavours to ruin his project and obſtruct his advancement.

He was ſent with other recruits to London, and ſoon after quartered with the reſt of his company in a part of the country, which was ſo remote from all with whom

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he had any connection, that he no longer dreaded a diſcovery.

It happened that he went one day to the houſe of a neighbouring gentleman with his comrade, who was become acquainted with the chamber-maid, and by her intereſt admitte into the kitchen. This gentleman, whoſe age was ſomething more than ſixty, had been about two years married to a ſecond wife, a young woman, who had been well educated, and lived in the polite world, but had no fortune. By his firſt wife, who had been dead about ten years, he had ſeveral children; the youngeſt was a daughter who had juſt entered her ſeventeenth year; ſhe was very tall for her age, had a fine complexion, good features, and was well ſhaped; but her father, whoſe affection for her was mere inſtinct, as much as that of a brute for its young, utterly neglected her education. It was impoſſible for him, he ſaid, to live without her; and as he could not afford to have her attended by a governeſs and proper maſters in a place ſo remote from London, ſhe was ſuffered to continue illiterate and unpoliſhed; ſhe knew no entertainment higher than a game at romps with the ſervants, ſhe became their confident, and truſted them in return; nor did ſhe think herſelf happy any where but in the kitchen.

As the capricious fondneſs of her father had never conciliated her affection, ſhe perceived it abate upon his marriage without re-

regret. She ſuffered no new reſtraint from her new mother, who obſerved with a ſecret ſatisfaction that miſs had been uſed to hide herſelf from viſitors, as neither knowing how to behave nor fit to be ſeen, and choſe rather to conceal her defects by excluding her from company, than to ſupply them by putting her to a boarding ſchool.

Miſs, who had been told by Betty that ſhe expected her ſweet-heart, and that they were to be merry, ſtole down ſtairs, and without ſcruple made one in a party at blindman's buff. The ſoldier of fortune was ſtruck with her perſon, and diſcovered, or thought he diſcovered, in the ſimplicity of nature, ſome graces which are poliſhed away by the labour of art. However, nothing that had the appearance of an adventure could be indifferent to him; and his vanity was flattered by the hope of carrying off a young lady under the diſguiſe of a common ſoldier, without revealing his birth, or boaſting of his expectations.

In this attempt he became very aſſiduous and ſucceeded. The company being ordered to another place, Betty and her young miſtreſs departed early in the morning with their gallants; and there being a privileged chapel in the next town, they were married.

The old gentleman, as ſoon as he was informed that his daughter was miſſing, made ſo diligent and ſcrupulous an enquiry after her, that he learned with whom and which way

way ſhe was gone: he mounted his horſe and purſued her, not without curſes and imprecations; diſcovering rather the tranſports of rage than the emotions of tenderneſs, and reſenting her offence rather as the rebellion of a ſlave than the diſobedience of a child. He did not, however, overtake them till the marriage had been conſummated; of which when he was informed by the huſband, he turned from him with expreſſions of brutality and indignation, ſwearing never to forgive a fault which he had taken no care to prevent.

The young couple, notwithſtanding their union frequently doubled their diſtreſs, ſtill continued fond of each other. The ſpirit of enterprize and the hope of preſumption were not yet quelled in the young ſoldier; and he received orders to attend King William, when he went to the ſiege of Namur, with exultation and tranſport, believing his elevation to independence and diſtinction as certain as if he had been going to take poſſeſſion of a title and eſtate. His wife, who had been ſome months pregnant, as ſhe had no means of ſubſiſtence in his abſence, procured a paſſage with him. When ſhe came on ſhore, and mingled with the crowd that followed the camp, wretches who without compunction wade in human blood to ſtrip the dying and the dead, to whom horror is become familiar, and compaſſion impoſſible, ſhe was terrified: the diſcourſe of the women, rude and unpoliſhed as ſhe was, covered her with

with confuſion; and the brutal familiarity of the men filled her with indignation and diſguſt; her maid Betty, who had alſo attended her huſband, was the only perſon with whom ſhe could converſe, and from whom ſhe could hope the aſſiſtance of which ſhe was ſo ſoon to ſtand in need.

In the mean time ſhe found it difficult to ſubſiſt; but accidently hearing the name of an officer, whom ſhe remembered to have viſited her mother ſoon after her marriage, ſhe applied to him, told him her name, and requeſted that he would afford her his protection, and permit her to take care of his linen. With this requeſt the captain complied; her circumſtances became leſs diſtreſſed, and her mind more eaſy: but a new calamity ſuddenly overtook her; ſhe ſaw her huſband march to an engagement in the morning, and ſaw him brought back deſperately wounded at night. The next day he was removed in a waggon, with many others who were in the ſame condition to a place of greater ſafety, at the diſtance of about three leagues, where proper care might be taken of their wounds. She intreated the captain to let her go in the waggon with him: but to this he could not conſent, becauſe the waggon would be filled with thoſe who neither were able to walk, nor could be left behind. He promiſed, however, that if ſhe would ſtay ſtill the next day, he would endeavour to procure her a paſſage; but ſhe

choſe rather to follow the waggon on foot, than to be abſent from her huſband. She could not, however, keep pace with it, and ſhe reached the hoſpital but juſt time enough to kneel down by him upon ſome clean ſtraw, to ſee him ſink under the laſt agony, and hear the groan that is repeated no more. The fatigue of the journey and the perturbation of her mind, immediately threw her into labour, and ſhe lived but to be delivered of Meliſſa, who was thus in the moſt helpleſs ſtate left without father, mother, or friend, in a foreign country, in circumſtances which could afford no hope of reward to the tenderneſs that ſhould attempt the preſervation of her life, and among perſons who were become obdurate and inſenſible, by having been long uſed to ſee every ſpecies of diſtreſs.

It happened that, among thoſe whom accident or diſtreſs had brought together at the birth of Meliſſa, there was a young woman, whoſe huſband had fallen in the late engagement, and who a few days before had loſt a little boy that ſhe had ſuckled. The perſon rather perhaps to relieve herſelf from an inconveniency, than in compaſſion to the orphan, put it to her breaſt: but whatever was her motive, ſhe believed that the affording ſuſtenance to the living, conferred a right to the apparel of the dead, of which ſhe therefore took poſſeſſion; but in ſearching her pocket ſhe found only a thimble, the remains of a pocket looking-glaſs, about the value

value of a penny in Dutch money, and the certificate of her marriage. The paper, which ſhe could not read, ſhe gave afterwards to the captain, who was touched with pity at the relation which an inquiry after his laundreſs produced. He commended the woman who had preſerved the infant, and put her into the place of its mother. This encouraged her to continue her care of it till the captain returned to England, with whom ſhe alſo returned, and became his ſervant.

This gentleman, as ſoon as he had ſettled his immediate concerns, ſent Meliſſa, under the care of her nurſe, to her grandfather; and incloſed the certificate of her mother's marriage in a letter containing an account of her death, and the means by which the infant had been preſerved. He knew that thoſe who have been once dear to us, by whatever offence they may have alienated our affection when living, are generally remembered with tenderneſs when dead; and that after the grave has ſheltered them from our reſentment, and rendered reconciliation impoſſible, we often regret as ſevere that conduct which before we approved as juſt; he, therefore, hoped, that the parental fondneſs which an old man had once left for his daughter, would revive at the ſight of her offſpring; that the memory of her fault would be loſt in the ſenſe of her misfortune; and that he would endeavour to atone for that inexorable reſentment which produced them,

them, by cheriſhing a life to which ſhe had, as it were, transferred her own. But in theſe expectations, however reaſonable, he was miſtaken. The old man, when he was informed by the meſſenger that the child ſhe held in her arms was his grand-daughter, whom ſhe was come to put under his protection, refuſed to examine the contents of the letter, and diſmiſſed her with menaces and inſult. The knowledge of every uncommon event ſoon becomes general in a country town. An uncle of Meliſſa's, who had been rejected by his father for having married his maid, heard this freſh inſtance of his brutality with grief and indignation; he ſent immediately for the child and the letter, and aſſured the ſervant that his niece ſhould want nothing which he could beſtow: to beſtow much, indeed, was not in his power, for his father having obſtinately perſiſted in his reſentment, his whole ſupport was a little farm which he rented of the 'ſquire: but as he was a good œconomiſt, and had no children of his own, he lived decently; nor did he throw away content, becauſe his father had denied him affluence.

Meliſſa, who was compaſſionated for her mother's misfortunes, of which her uncle had been particularly informed by her maid Betty, who had returned a widow to her friends in the country, was not leſs beloved for her own good qualities; ſhe was taught to read and write, and work at her needle, as ſoon

as ſhe was able to learn; and ſhe was taken notice of by all the gentry as the prettieſt girl in the place; but her aunt died when ſhe was about eleven years old, and before ſhe was thirteen ſhe loſt her uncle.

She was now again thrown back upon the world, ſtill helpleſs, though her wants were increaſed, and wretched in proportion as ſhe had known happineſs; ſhe looked back with anguiſh, and forward with diſtraction: a fit of crying had juſt afforded her a momentary relief, when the 'ſquire who had been informed of the death of his tenant, ſent for her to his houſe. This gentleman had heard her ſtory from her uncle, and was unwilling that a life which had been preſerved by miracle, ſhould at laſt be abandoned to miſery; he therefore determined to receive her into his family, not as a ſervant, but as a companion for his daughter, a young lady finely accompliſhed, and now about fifteen. The old gentleman was touched with her diſtreſs, and Miſs received her with great tenderneſs and complacency; ſhe wiped away her tears, and of the intolerable anguiſh of her mind, nothing remained but a tender remembrance of her uncle, whom ſhe loved and reverenced as a parent. She had now courage to examine the contents of a little box which he had put into her hand juſt before he expired; ſhe found in it only the certificate of her mother's marriage, encloſed in the captain's letter, and an account of the events that have

have been before related, which her uncle had put down as they came to his knowledge: the train of mournful ideas that now ruſhed upon her mind raiſed emotions which, if they could not be ſupreſſed by reaſon, were ſoon deſtroyed by their own violence.

In this family, which in a few weeks after returned to London, Meliſſa ſoon became a favourite: the good 'ſquire ſeemed to conſider her as his child, and Miſs as her ſiſter; ſhe was taught dancing and muſic, introduced to the beſt company, elegantly dreſſed, and allowed ſuch ſums as were neceſſary for trivial expences. Youth ſeldom ſuffers the dread of to-morrow to intrude upon the enjoyment of to-day, but rather regards preſent felicity as the pledge of future: Meliſſa was probably as happy as if ſhe had been in the actual poſſeſſion of a fortune, that to the eaſe and ſplendor which ſhe enjoyed already, would have added ſtability and independence.

She was now in her eighteenth year, and the only ſon of her benefactor was juſt come from the univerſity to ſpend the winter with his father in town. He was charmed with her perſon, behaviour, and diſcourſe: and what he could not but admire, he took every opportunity to commend. She ſoon perceived that he ſhewed particular marks of reſpect to her, when he thought they would not be perceived by others; and that he endeavoured to recommend himſelf by an officious aſſiduity, and a diligent attention to the moſt

minute circumſtances that might contribute to her pleaſure. But this behaviour of the young gentleman, however it might gratify her vanity, could not fail to alarm her fear: ſhe foreſaw, that if what ſhe had remarked in his conduct ſhould be perceived by his father or ſiſter, the peace of the family would be deſtroyed; and that ſhe muſt either be ſhipwrecked in the ſtorm, or thrown overboard to appeaſe it. She therefore affected not to perceive, that more than a general complaiſance was intended by her lover; and hoped that he would thus be diſcouraged from making an explicit declaration: but though he was mortified at her diſregard of that which he knew ſhe could not but ſee, yet he determined to addreſs her in ſuch terms as ſhould not leave this provoking neutrality in her power: though he reverenced her virtue, yet he feared too much the anger of his father to think of making her his wife; and he was too deeply enamoured of her beauty to relinquiſh his hopes of poſſeſſing her as a miſtreſs. An opportunity for the execution of his purpoſe was not long wanting: ſhe received his general profeſſions of love with levity and merriment; but when ſhe perceived that his view was to ſeduce her to proſtitution, ſhe burſt into tears, and fell back in an agony unable to ſpeak. He was immediately touched with grief and remorſe; his tenderneſs was alarmed at her diſtreſs, and his eſteem increaſed by her virtue; he catch-

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ed her in his arms, and as an atonement for the inſult ſhe had received, he offered her marriage: but as her chaſtity would not ſuffer her to become his miſtreſs, neither would her gratitude permit her to become his wife; and as ſoon as ſhe was ſufficiently recollected, ſhe intreated him never more to urge her to violate the obligation ſhe was under either to herſelf or her benefactor, "Would not," ſaid ſhe, "the preſence of a wretch whom "you had ſeduced from innocence and peace "to remorſe and guilt, perpetually upbraid "you? and would you not always fear to be "betrayed by a wife, whoſe fidelity no kind-"neſs could ſecure; who had broken all the "bands that reſtrain the generous and the "good; and who by an act of the moſt flagi-"tious ingratitude had at once reached the "pinnacle of guilt, to which others aſcend "by imperceptable gradations."

Theſe objections, though they could neither be obviated nor evaded, had yet no tendency to ſubdue deſire: he loved with great delicacy, but with more ardour; and as he could not always forbear expoſtulations, neither could ſhe always ſilence them in ſuch a manner as might moſt effectually prevent their being repeated. Such was one morning the ſituation of the two lovers: he had taken her hand into his, and was ſpeaking with great earneſtneſs; while ſhe regarded him with a timorous complacency, and liſtened to him with an attention which her heart condemned: his father, in this tender moment, in which their powers

of perception were mutually engroſſed by each other, came near enough to hear that his heir had made propoſals of marriage, and retired without their knowledge.

As he did not dream that ſuch a propoſal could poſſibly be rejected by a girl in Meliſſa's ſituation, imagining that every woman believed her virtue to be inviolate if her perſon was not proſtituted, he took his meaſures accordingly. It was near the time in which his family had been uſed to remove into the country: he therefore, gave orders, that every thing ſhould immediately be prepared for the journey, and that the coach ſhould be ready at ſix the next morning, a man and horſe being diſpatched in the mean time to give notice of their arrival. The young folks were a little ſurpriſed at this ſudden removal; but though the 'ſquire was a good-natured man, yet as he governed his family with high authority, and as they perceived ſomething had offended him, they did not inquire the reaſon, nor indeed did they ſuſpect it. Meliſſa packed up her things as uſual: and in the morning, the young gentleman and his ſiſter having by their father's orders got into the coach, he called Meliſſa into the parlour; where, in a few words, but with great acrimony, he reproached her with having formed a deſign to marry his ſon without his conſent, an act of ingratitude which he ſaid juſtified him in upbraiding her with the favours which he had already conferred upon her, and in a reſolu-

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tion he had taken that a bank bill of fifty pounds, which he then put into her hand, ſhould be the laſt: adding, that he expected ſhe ſhould within one week leave the houſe. To this heavy charge ſhe was not in a condition to reply; nor did he ſtay to ſee whether ſhe would attempt it, but haſtily got into the coach, which immediately drove from the door.

Thus was Meliſſa a third time, by a ſudden and unexpected deſertion, expoſed to penury and diſtreſs, with this aggravation, that eaſe and affluence were become habitual; and that though ſhe was not ſo helpleſs as at the death of her uncle, ſhe was expoſed to yet greater danger; for few that have been uſed to ſlumber upon down and wake to feſtivity, can reſiſt the allurements of vice, who ſtill offers eaſe and plenty, when the alternative are a flock-bed and a garret, ſhort meals, coarſe apparel, and perpetual labour.

Meliſſa, as ſoon as ſhe had recovered from the ſtupor which had ſeized her upon ſo aſtoniſhing and dreadful a change of fortune, determined not to accept the bounty of a perſon who imagined her to be unworthy of it; nor to attempt her juſtification while it would render her veracity ſuſpected, and appear to proceed only from the hope of being reſtored to a ſtate of ſplendid dependence, from which jealouſy or caprice might again at any time remove her, without cauſe and without notice: ſhe had not, indeed, any hope

hope of being ever able to defend herſelf againſt her accuſer upon equal terms: nor nor did ſhe know how to ſubſiſt a ſingle day, when ſhe had returned his bill and quitted his houſe: yet ſuch was the dignity of her ſpirits, that ſhe immediately incloſed it in a blank cover, directed to him at his country-ſeat, and calling up the maid who had been left to take care of the houſe, ſent her immediately with it to the Poſt-office. The tears then burſt out, which the agitation of her mind had before reſtrained: and when the ſervant returned, ſhe told her all that had happened, and aſked her advice what ſhe ſhould do. The girl, after the firſt emotions of wonder and pity had ſubſided, told her that ſhe had a ſiſter who lodged in a reputable houſe, and took in plain-work, to whom ſhe would be welcome, as ſhe could aſſiſt her in her buſineſs, of which ſhe had often more than ſhe could do, and with whom ſhe might continue till ſome more eligible ſituation could be obtained. Meliſſa liſtened to this propoſal as to the voice of heaven; her mind was ſuddenly relieved from the moſt tormenting perplexity, from the dread of wandering about without money or employment, expoſed to the menaces of a beadle, or the inſults of the rabble: ſhe was in haſte to ſecure her good fortune, and felt ſome degree of pain leſt ſhe ſhould loſe it by the earlier application of another; ſhe therefore went immediately with the maid to her ſiſter, with whom it was ſoon agreed that Meliſſa ſhould work for her board and lodging:

lodging: for ſhe would not conſent to accept as a gift that which ſhe could by any means deſerve as a payment.

While Meliſſa was a journeywoman to a perſon, who but a few weeks before would have regarded her with envy, and approached her with confuſion; it happened, that a ſuit of linen was brought from the milliner's wrapped up in a news-paper: the linen was put into a work-baſket, and the paper being thrown careleſly about, Meliſſa at laſt catched it up, and was about to read it, but perceiving that it had been publiſhed a fortnight was juſt going to put it into the fire, when by an accidental glance ſhe ſaw her father's name: this immediately engaged her attention, and with great perturbation of mind, ſhe read an advertiſement, in which her father, ſaid to to have left his friends about eighteen years before, and to have entered either into the army or the navy, was directed to apply to a perſon in Staples-Inn, who could inform him of ſomething greatly to his advantage. To this perſon Meliſſa applied with all the ardour of curioſity, and all the tumult of expectation: ſhe was informed that the elder brother of the perſon mentioned in the advertiſement was lately dead unmarried; that he was poſſeſſed of fifteen hundred a year, five hundred of which had deſcended to him from his father, and one thouſand had been left him by an uncle, which upon his death, there being no male heir, had been claimed by his ſiſters;

ſiſters; but that a miſtreſs who had lived with him many years, and who had been treated by the ſuppoſed heireſſes with too much ſeverity and contempt, had in the bitterneſs of her reſentment publiſhed the advertiſement, having heard in the family that there was a younger brother abroad.

The conflict of different paſſions that were at once excited with uncommon violence in the breaſt of Meliſſa, deprived her for a time of the power of reflection; and when ſhe became more calm, ſhe knew not by what method to attempt the recovery of her right: her mind was bewildered amidſt a thouſand poſſibilities, and diſtreſſed by the apprehenſion that all might prove ineffectual. After much thought and many projects, ſhe recollected that the captain, whoſe ſervant brought her to England, would probably afford her more aſſiſtance than any other perſon: as he had been often pointed out to her in public places by the 'ſquire, to whom her ſtory was well known, ſhe was acquainted with his perſon, and knew that within a few months he was alive; ſhe ſoon obtained directions to his houſe, and being readily admitted to a conference. ſhe told him, with as much preſence of mind as ſhe could, that ſhe was the perſon whom his compaſſion had contributed to preſerve when an infant, in confirmation of which ſhe produced his letter and the certificate which it incloſed; that by the death of her father's elder brother, whoſe family ſhe had

had never known, ſhe was become entitled to a very conſiderable eſtate; but that ſhe knew not what evidence would be neceſſary to ſupport her claim, how ſuch evidence was to be produced, nor with whom to intruſt the management of an affair in which wealth and influence would be employed againſt her. The old captain received her with that eaſy politeneſs, which is almoſt peculiar to his profeſſion, and with a warmth of benevolence that is ſeldom found in any: he congratulated her upon ſo happy and unexpected an event; and without the parade of oſtentatious liberality, without extorting an explicit confeſſion of her indigence, he gave her a letter to his lawyer, in whom he ſaid ſhe might with the utmoſt ſecurity confide, and with whom ſhe would have nothing more to do than to tell her ſtory: "And do not," ſaid he, "doubt "of ſucceſs, for I will be ready to teſtify "what I know of the affair, whenever I ſhall "be called upon; and the woman who was "preſent at your birth and brought you "over, ſtill lives with me, and upon this "occaſion may do you ſignal ſervice."

Meliſſa departed, melted with gratitude and elated with hope. The gentleman, to whom the captain's letter was a recommendation, proſecuted her claim with ſo much ſkill and aſſiduity, that within a few months ſhe was put in poſſeſſion of her eſtate. Her firſt care was to wait upon the captain, to whom ſhe owed not only life but a fortune: he received

ed her acknowledgments with a pleaſure, which only thoſe who merit it can enjoy; and inſiſted that ſhe ſhould draw upon him for ſuch ſums as ſhe ſhould want before her rents became due. She then took very handſome ready-furniſhed lodgings, and determined immediately to juſtify her conduct to the 'ſquire, whoſe kindneſs ſhe ſtill remembered, and whoſe reſentment ſhe had forgiven. With this view ſhe ſet out in a chariot and ſix, attended by two ſervants in livery on horſeback, and proceeded to his country-ſeat, from whence the family was not returned: ſhe had lain at an inn within ſix miles of the place, and when the chariot drove up to the door, as it was early in the morning, ſhe could perceive the ſervants run to and fro in a hurry, and the young lady and her brother gazing through the window to ſee if they knew the livery: ſhe remarked every circumſtance which denoted her own importance with exultation; and enjoyed the ſolicitude which her preſence produced among thoſe from whoſe ſociety ſhe had ſo lately been driven with diſdain and indignation.

She now increaſed their wonder by ſending in a ſervant to acquaint the old gentleman, that a lady deſired to ſpeak with him about urgent buſineſs, which would not however long detain him: he courteouſly invited the lady to honour him with her commands, haſtened into his beſt parlour, adjuſted his wig, and put himſelf in the beſt order to receive

receive her: ſhe alighted, and diſplayed a very rich undreſs, which correſponded with the elegance of her chariot, and the modiſh appearance of her ſervants. She contrived to hide her face as ſhe went up the walk, that ſhe might not be known too ſoon; and was immediately introduced to her old friend, to whom ſhe ſoon diſcovered herſelf to his great aſtoniſhment, and before he had recovered his preſence of mind, ſhe addreſſed him to this effect: "You ſee, Sir, an orphan who "is under the greateſt obligations to your "bounty, but who has been equally injured "by your ſuſpicions. When I was depen-"dant upon your liberality, I would not aſ-"ſert my innocence, becauſe I could not "bear to be ſuſpected of falſhood: but I "aſſert it now I am the poſſeſſor of a pater-"nal eſtate, becauſe I cannot bear to be "ſuſpected of ingratitude; that your ſon "preſſed me to marry him, is true; but it is "alſo true that I refuſed him, becauſe I "would not diſappoint your hopes and im-"poveriſh your poſterity. The old gentle-man's confuſion was increaſed by the wonders that crowded upon him: he firſt made ſome attempts to apologize for his ſuſpicions with aukwardneſs and heſitation; then doubting the truth of appearances, he broke off abruptly and remained ſilent; then reproaching himſelf, he began to congratulate her upon her good fortune, and again deſiſted before he had finiſhed the compliment. Melliſſa perceived his perplexity, and gueſſed

the

the cauſe; ſhe was, therefore, about to account more particularly for the ſudden change of her circumſtances, but Miſs, whoſe maid had brought her intelligence from the ſervants, that the lady's name who was with her papa was Meliſſa, and that ſhe was lately come to a great eſtate by the death of her uncle, could no longer reſtrain the impatience of her affection and joy; ſhe ruſhed into the room, and fell upon her neck, with a tranſport that can only be felt by friendſhip and expreſſed by tears. When this tender ſilence was paſt, the ſcruples of doubt were ſoon obviated; the reconciliation was reciprocal and ſincere; the father led out his gueſt, and preſented her to his ſon, with an apology for his conduct to them both.

Meliſſa had beſpoke a dinner and beds at the inn, but ſhe was not ſuffered to return. Within a few weeks ſhe became the daughter of her friend, who gave her hand to his ſon, with whom ſhe ſhared many years that happineſs which is the reward of virtue. They had ſeveral children, but none ſurvived them; and Meliſſa, upon the death of her huſband, which happened about ſeven years ago, retired wholly from the town to her eſtate in the country, where ſhe lived beloved, and died in peace.

On the IMPROVEMENT *of* LIFE: *An Eaſtern Story.*

OBIDAH, the ſon of Abenſina, left the Caravanſera early in the morning, and purſued his journey through the plains of Indoſtan. He was freſh and vigorous with reſt; he was animated with hope; he was incited by deſire; he walked ſwiftly forward over the vallies, and ſaw the hills gradually riſing before him. As he paſſed along, his ears were delighted with the morning ſong of the bird of paradiſe, he was fanned by the laſt flutters of the ſinking breeze, and ſprinkled with dew by groves of ſpices; he ſometimes contemplated the towering height of the oak, monarch of the hills; and ſometimes caught the gentle fragrance of the primroſe, eldeſt daughter of the ſpring: All his ſenſes were gratified, and all care was baniſhed from his heart.

Thus he went on till the ſun approached his meridian, and the increaſing heat preyed

upon his ſtrength; he then looked round about him for ſome more commodious path. He ſaw on his right hand, a grove that ſeemed to wave its ſhades, as a ſign of invitation; he entered it, and found the coolneſs and verdure irreſiſtably pleaſant. He did not, however, forget whither he was travelling, but found a narrow way bordered with flowers, which appeared to have the ſame direction with the main road, and he was pleaſed that by this happy experiment, he had found means to unite pleaſure with his buſineſs, and to gain the rewards of diligence without ſuffering its fatigues. He therefore, ſtill continued to walk for a time, without the leaſt remiſſion of his ardor, except that he was ſometimes tempted to ſtop by the muſic of the birds, whom the heat had aſſembled in the ſhade; and ſometimes amuſed himſelf with plucking the flowers that grew on either ſide, or the fruits that hung upon the branches. At laſt the green path began to decline from its firſt direction, and to wind among hills and thickets, cooled with fountains, and murmuring with waterfalls. Here Obidah paufed for a time, and began to conſider whether it were longer ſafe to forſake the known and open road, but remembering that the heat was now in its greateſt violence, and that the plain was duſty and uneven, he reſolved to purſue the new path, which he ſuppoſed only to make a few meanders, in compliance with the varieties of the ground, and to end at laſt in the

the common road.

Having thus calmed his ſolicitude, he renewed his pace, though he ſuſpected that he was not gaining ground. This uneaſineſs of his mind inclined him to lay hold on every new object, and give way to every ſenſation that might ſooth or divert him. He liſtened to every echo, he mounted every hill for a freſh proſpect, he turned aſide to every caſcade, and pleaſed himſelf with tracing the courſe of a gentle river that rolled among the trees, and watered a large region with innumerable circumvolutions. In theſe amuſements the hours paſſed away uncounted, his deviations had perplexed his memory, and he knew not towards what point to travel. He ſtood penſive and confuſed, afraid to go forward leſt he ſhould go wrong, yet conſcious that the time of loitering was now paſt. While he was thus tortured with uncertainty, the ſky was overſpread with clouds, the day vaniſhed from before him, and a ſudden tempeſt gathered round his head. He was now roufed by his danger to a quick and painful remembrance of his folly, he now ſaw how happineſs is loſt when eaſe is conſulted, and lamented the unmanly impatience that prompted him to ſeek ſhelter in the grove, and deſpiſed the petty curioſity that led him on from trifle to trifle. While he was thus reflecting, the air grew blacker, and a clap of thunder broke his meditation.

He now reſolved to do what remained yet in his power, to tread back the ground which he paſſed, and try to find ſome iſſue where the wood might open into the plain. He proſtrated himſelf on the ground, and commended his life to the Lord of nature. He roſe with confidence and tranquility, and preſſed on with his ſabre in his hand, for the beaſts of the deſart were in motion, and on every hand were heard the mingled howls of rage and fear, and ravage, and expiration; all the horrors of darkneſs and ſolitude ſurrounded him; the winds roared in the woods, and the torrents tumbled from the hills.

Thus forlorn and diſtreſſed, he wandered through the wild, without knowing whither he was going, or whether he was every moment drawing nearer to ſafety or to deſtruction. At length not fear but labour began to overcome him; his breath grew ſhort, and his knees trembled, and he was on the point of lying down in reſignation to his fate, when he beheld through the brambles the glimmer of a taper. He advanced towards the light, and finding that it proceeded from the cottage of a hermit, he called humbly at the door, and obtained admiſſion. The old man ſet before him ſuch proviſions as he had collected for himſelf, on which Obidah fed with eagerneſs and gratitude.

When

When the repaſt was over, "Tell me, ſaid "the hermit, by what chance thou haſt been "brought hither; I have been now twenty "years an inhabitant of the wilderneſs, in "which I never ſaw a man before." Obidah then related the occurrences of his journey, without any concealment or palliation.

"Son, ſaid the hermit, let the errors and "follies, the dangers and eſcape of this day, "ſink deep into thine heart. Remember, "my ſon, that human life is the journey of "a day. We riſe in the morning of youth, "full of vigour and full of expectation; we "ſet forward with ſpirit and hope, with "gaiety and with diligence, and travel on a "while in the ſtreight road of piety towards "the manſions of reſt. In a ſhort time we "remit our fervor, and endeavour to find "ſome mitigation of our duty, and ſome "more eaſy means of obtaining the ſame "end. We then relax our vigour, and re-"ſolve no longer to be terrified with crimes "at a diſtance, but rely upon our own con-"ſtancy, and venture to approach what we "reſolve never to touch. We thus enter "the bowers of eaſe, and repoſe in the "ſhades of ſecurity. Here the heart ſof-"tens, and vigilance ſubſides; we are then "willing to enquire whether another ad-"vance cannot be made, and whether we "may not, at leaſt, turn our eyes upon the "gardens of pleaſure: we approach them

"with

" with ſcruple and heſitation; we enter
" them, but enter timorous and trembling,
" and always hope to paſs through them
" without loſing the road of virtue, which
" we, for a while, keep in our ſight, and to
" which we propoſe to return. But temp-
" tation ſucceeds temptation, and one com-
" pliance prepares us for another; we in
" time loſe the happineſs of innocence, and
" ſolace our diſquiet with ſenſual gratifica-
" tions. By degrees we let fall the remem-
" brance of our original intention, and quit
" the only adequate object of rational deſire.
" We entangle ourſelves in buſineſs, im-
" merge ourſelves in luxury, and rove
" through the labyrinths of inconſtancy, till
" the darkneſs of old age begins to invade
" us, and diſeaſe and anxiety obſtruct our
" way. We then look back upon our lives
" with horror, with ſorrow, with repentance,
" and wiſh, but too often vainly wiſh, that
" we had not forſaken the ways of virtue.
" Happy are they, my ſon, who ſhall learn
" from thy example not to deſpair, but ſhall
" remember, that though the day is paſt,
" and their ſtrength is waſted, there yet re-
" mains one effort to be made; that refor-
" mation is never hopeleſs, nor ſincere en-
" deavours ever unaſſiſted, but the wanderer
" may at length return after all his errors;
" and he who implores ſtrength and courage
" from above, ſhall find danger and diffi-
" culty give way before him. Go now, my

" ſon,

" ſon, to thy repoſe, commit thyſelf to the
" care of omnipotence, and when the morn-
" ing calls again to toil, begin anew thy
" journey and thy life."

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